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DEVOTED TO AGRICULTURE AND ITS KINDRED ARTS AND SCIENCES.

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SIMON BROWN, EDITOR.

CALENDAR FOR JULY.

"From brightening fields of ether fair disclosed,
Child of the sun, refulgent *Summer* comes,
In pride of youth, and felt through nature's depth;
He comes attended by the sultry hours,
And ever fanning breezes on his way."

ERVENT with heat, or as our poet says, "attended by the sultry hours," JULY has come round again, and it is to be hoped that the "ever fanning breezes" will come too. Yet if we had not this heat of which we sometimes complain as being oppressive and disagreeable, there would be no hay, no vegetables, none of the articles which may be reckoned as the necessaries of life. There is nothing in nature without a purpose, and this is the purpose of weather which sends the mercury to *ninety-five* in the shade, and sets mankind to grumbling as if they were a much abused race—namely, to provide them with future comforts and luxuries.

When the long drought came in May, 1860, and the ground, as it was turned up with the spade, seemed like ashes, when potatoes lay in the soil for weeks without sprouting, there seemed a sorry prospect for the farming world,—but in spite of all our dismal forebodings, a beautiful rain fell upon the thirsty earth one Saturday—steadily it fell, filling cisterns and hogsheads, and refreshing every living thing, and the Sabbath came clear and lovely—the wind which had been east so long, blew gently from the west, and the long horror was over. From that time, perhaps, the prospect for an abundant harvest was as good as usual. And we have queried whether the average weather of different seasons is not more equal than is sometimes supposed, and whether, consequently, we are not guilty of borrowing a great deal of trouble about the weather, the crops, &c., when nature really knows how to take excellent care of the treasures committed to her. She has had a long experience in this time, and has seldom been known to fail us. People talk about having "an early spring," but unless some one can show statistics to the contrary, we are inclined to believe that, in a general way, there is a remarkable uniformity in "seed time and harvest." It is true, it occasionally happens that the snow leaves early, and a few warm days persuade us that the year is going to be an exception to ordinary rules, but if these sunny days last long enough to bring out the buds or blossoms prematurely, how often it happens that "there comes a frost, a killing frost," and checks the early development, so that in the end nothing is gained by it.

The old New England Primer used to say—

"Youth's forward slips,
Death soonest nips."

Whatever that couplet may be supposed to have meant in the primer, it certainly applies to the case in hand—for the forward slips of vegetation, are by no means the ones most likely to furnish us food in time of need!

From this uniformity in nature's laws and works, we learn to place confidence in her, and when we plant "in due season," we expect to "reap." Our mother Earth has about the only "bank" where we can invest our "capital" without fear of failure. She is always ready to meet her notes on demand!

And when the spring has finished *its* work, and given place to the rich luxuriance of summer,

there are times when it seems sufficient happiness to sit and look from your window, and admire the panorama stretched out before you. There is the river with the sunbeams glancing back from its waves—the trees, whose leaves scarcely move in the hot, still air—the cattle lying under them, chewing the cud of contentment and lazy ease—in all this there is a beauty, and an air of repose, which almost gives us the impression that the world has at length come to a *stopping place*—that this is the *end* for which spring was the *means*—that all the prepartaion of bursting buds and blossoms was only that we might enjoy the affluence of summer for a season. But too soon the mower comes with his scythe, and the long, waving grass is laid low, and this is the first decided token of "*passing away*," since the year commenced its new life. Now we begin to feel that Summer is but a transition toward harvest, as harvest is the season for laying up our winter stores. So "all things are full of labor" and change, and if we might be permitted a little trite moralizing, so the natural world may be taken as a type of the moral world—of human life, where there is no resting place—no position ever attained when we may say, "This if the *end* for which we labored—now there is nothing more to do, and we can rest on our laurels." Destiny's finger always points *onward*, to some other and higher attainments whatever the object in life may be—wealth, fame, or wisdom!

But to return to our *Summer day*—there is one portion of it which comparatively few people see, and that is *the early dawn*, although most of us have had essays, and probably written "compositions" on early rising. We will not now offer any moral lessons on the subject—telling about its being conducive to health, &c., but would merely invite the lovers of beauty to get up some morning and take a look at the world simply as an exhibition. Such a fresh atmosphere—such a singing of birds and crowing of cocks—such a combination of voices of unknown insects, as if they were *so* glad to get up again—such verdure on the dew-covered leaves, can be seen, and heard and felt, nowhere but in the country, of a summer morning. Later in the day, the enthusiasm seems to die out of the insect race—a change comes over them, as if they had not found things so pleasant as they expected! Then the dew dries up, and the dust settles on the leaves, and it is only the working-day world again.

It is curious that man is the only animal to which *lying abed* is a temptation—whether to be accounted for by his superior wisdom, or his innate depravity, we would not pretend to decide. We might speak of the evening hours, but as people are in a situation to realize these for themselves, it must be a waste of words.

Well—JULY, with its bright days will soon be gone, but like all pleasant things which pass away, we should enjoy and improve them while they last.

NEW BOOKS.

A MANUAL OF FLAX CULTURE AND MANUFACTURE: embracing full directions for preparing the ground, sowing, harvesting, &c. Published by D. D. T. Moore, Rochester, N. Y. Price 25 cents.

Its leading articles are:

A Practical Essay on Flax Culture, by William Newcomb, of Rensselaer county, New York.

Flax Culture and Manufacture in the United States and Great Britain, by N. Goodsell, of Oswego county, New York.

Report on Flax and Machinery for making Flax Cotton.

About Flax, Soil, Seed and Culture.

Hemp and Flax in the West, by Charles D. Bragdon, of Illinois.

Flax-growing in Seneca county, New York, by Samuel Williams, of Waterloo.

The structure of Textile Fibre, by John Phin, author of "Open Air Grape Culture."

Flax, as a Domestic Institution, by Hugh T. Brooks, of Wyoming county, New York.

The uses of the Flax Crop.

Botanical Descriptions of Flax and Hemp, by Prof. C. Dewey, of the University of Rochester.

This seems to be a reliable work on the subject discussed, and will prove of service to those engaging in the culture of flax. We have already given, from an intelligent western New York correspondent, full particulars of the best modes of culture of the flax plant.

MUSEUM OF COMPARATIVE ZOOLOGY.

We have before us the Annual Report of the Trustees of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, together with the Report of the Director, for 1862. Beside the statement of the Trustees in relation to the condition of the Museum, it contains interesting reports on *Mammalia*, on *Birds*, *Reptiles*, *Fishes*, *Insects*, on the *Echinoderms*, *Acalephs* and *Polyps*.

PAPER FROM CORN HUSKS.—The editor of the Iowa *Hawkeye* has received several specimens of paper manufactured from corn husks, and a specimen of cloth woven from the same material. The paper was of several kinds, from thin and light, to thick and strong, and of apparently excellent quality.

KICKING COWS.—A correspondent of the *Country Gentleman*, who has "kept a milk dairy of forty to fifty cows for several years, says he has never found but one effectual plan of preventing cows from kicking,—and that is to kill them! He thinks it profitable, however, to feed them liberally three or four months, before they cease kicking!

For the New England Farmer.

THINGS TO BE LEARNED.

Among the many difficulties with which the farmer has to contend, is one, which, although referred to by agricultural writers, yet is ever regarded by honest, open-hearted men as an evil of the first magnitude. I refer to those individuals who make it their business, or a part of their business to cheat in trade. The farmer often has occasion to buy, sell or exchange horses, cattle, and other commodities of the farm; and in so doing is extremely liable to be cheated if he does not possess the requisite knowledge, tact and judgment. His occupation has a tendency to prevent him from acquiring that sharp and ready insight into the character and motives of others which those generally possess who are daily in close contact with their fellow men. He is therefore liable to be duped by men who are inferior to him in moral character, but who understand human nature and the art of cheating.

Let us suppose a case. An honest-minded farmer not fully acquainted with the tricks of trade wishes to buy a horse. He makes inquiries and spends perhaps several days in the search for one to suit him. Finally some "horse-jockey" hears of his want, and quickly, like a vulture to its prey, rides over to see him. He takes a horse along with him which he says is a most excellent animal, perfectly sound and kind in every particular. The farmer is soon persuaded to buy, and pays, of course, a round sum. Not many days elapse before the poor farmer discovers that he has been most sorely "taken in." The horse proves to be either much older than was represented, or has the heaves, or a spavin, or is afflicted with some one or more of the thousand and one ills which horse flesh is heir to; or he may be vicious and unruly. The man sees at last that he has been cheated to the amount of twenty-five, fifty or a hundred dollars. And there is no help for it, for it would take, probably, three times the sum of his loss to recover it (supposing such a thing to be possible) by a lawsuit, of the villain who has knowingly defrauded him. And to make his misfortune still more unbearable, no one seems to pity him, but he is laughed at and called a "greeny" or a fool. The jockey, instead of being denounced as a liar and thief, and expelled from respectable society or sent to prison, is considered by many to be a pretty smart fellow!

Cases similar to the above are very common, not only among horse-dealers, bnt among those who trade in cattle and other domestic animals. And in selling any of the productions of his land, the farmer is in danger of being cheated if he is not, at all times, well posted in the market prices. He has something on hand which he wishes to sell: a stranger, or a friend, (?) it may be, comes along and offers him a certain price for it, which he, the buyer, says is all that it is worth, according to the market price; a bargain is made and the man departs. Soon after the farmer meets a neighbor who "takes the papers," and informs him of the sale and its terms. The neighbor looks surprised and exclaims, "Is that all you received? Why, the man paid me nearly a third more for the same article!"

Such instances as these, and they are by no means rare, prove that the farmer must learn how to deal with all classes of men, if he desires to be secure from the pilferings of those who belong to the lowest, or constitute the lowest class of thieves and robbers.

Although I am but a novice in the art of buying, selling and "swapping," yet I would like to give a little advice to any who need, and will receive it, hoping it may do some good.

1. Study human nature, and learn to perceive at a glance the real motives of men. In acquiring this knowledge you would be immensely aided by the study of phrenology and physiognomy.

2. Thoroughly acquaint yourself with the physiology of all domestic animals; with the diseases to which they are liable, and the various remedies. Become, in fact, your own cattle doctor. You can then readily detect any imperfection or disease in an animal which you are about to bargain for, and be able to preserve the life and health of those already in your possession.

3. Keep yourself well acquainted with the price current of every article in which you ever deal. In so doing you would be greatly assisted by taking the *Farmer*, or some other reliable agricultural journal.

4. In dealing with a stranger, or an acquaintance of whose veracity you have the least doubt, never believe what he says, unless the evidence of your own senses, or some other positive proof convinces you that he speaks the truth. You had better spend five dollars in obtaining good evidence of the truth of his assertions, than lose twenty by a bad bargain.

5. Whenever you have an opportunity to cheat a man, by all that is sacred in earth and heaven, never improve it.

If those few directions, and especially the last, were closely followed by all men, that species of polite or fashionable robbery called cheating, would cease to flourish, like a green bay tree, among us.

S. L. WHITE.

South Groton, Feb., 1863.

REMARKS.—Timely and excellent. The practices which our correspondent describes are of every day occurrence, and some of them, as he says, absolutely fashionable. Never was greater mistake. No man can afford to do the slightest wrong, for any consideration. No,—not if the wrong were what is called a trifling one, and the reward were a crown or an empire, the compensation would be all too poor. We cannot afford to do wrong, on any account. It is a loss to us too immense long to be borne. Was there ever a person, dying, who did not wish he had lived an upright life in every thing? Let us, then, live as we shall wish we had, when we come to die.

☞ An immense amount of rejected corn has lately been received in Chicago. Entire trains and boat loads daily pass "rejected." The imperfect cleaning of the grain and the negligent manner of sending it to market is said to be the cause of this rejection, which entails a loss of from three to eight cents per bushel. The loss to the West when duly approximated must be enormous.

☞ In the town of Sandwich, N. H., this season, there have been 11,325 pounds of maple sugar manufactured.

SEEDING WITH RYE IN SUMMER.

We were recently, in conversation with P. G. Bauder, Esq., of Winnebago Co., frequently mentioned in our columns as a breeder of Cotswold and other sheep. The talk turned upon the subject of seeding for pasture, He is a strong advocate of seeding with rye, and gave the following as, in his experience, the best method.

Plough in any of the summer months, mix Timothy and clover, half and half, ten quarts to the acre; rye one and one-half bushels; harrow all in well and roll with heavy roller.

In a few weeks the rye will completely cover the ground, affording the best of summer and fall feed for either sheep or cattle. The soil has been made so compact with the roller that the tramping of the stock does no injury to the Timothy or clover roots. The rye, if properly fed down, does not seed, and will live for about three years. The grass and clover continually thriving form a good sod, even in sandy soil, making of itself a complete pasture by this time.

His success in this way has always been good. He has never lost a seeding from drouth, which he considers the great cause of failure in seeding with oats or other crops in spring, or even with fall grains, that are removed at harvest time, exposing the tender grass plants to the scorching sun of summer. From the experience of Mr. B. and others mentioned by him, we can confidently recommend this method of seeding to all our Northern farmers. Especially must it prove valuable when, from any cause, there is a necessity for a sudden increase of pasture. A few weeks serve to furnish sufficient and reliable feed.—*Prairie Farmer.*

SEEDS---QUANTITY TO BE SOWN, &c.

The following estimate of the quantities of different kinds of garden seeds required to produce a certain number of plants, or to plant a certain quantity of ground, is copied from an agricultural exchange:

Asparagus.—One ounce will produce about 1000 plants, and requires a seed bed about twelve square feet.

Asparagus Roots.—1000 roots will plant a bed four feet wide, and from 200 to 250 feet long, according to the distance apart the plants are placed in the row.

Beans.—English Dwarf.—One quart of seed will plant from 100 to 150 feet of row, according as the sorts may be early or late.

Beans.—French Dwarf.—One quart will be sufficient for about 350 hills, and the same quantity will plant from 250 to 300 feet of row.

Beans.—Pole.—One quart of Lima, White Dutch or Scarlet Runners, will plant about 300 hills, or 250 feet of row.

Beets.—When sown as gardeners generally sow it, it requires at the rate of ten pounds to an acre; one ounce will suffice for about 150 feet of row.

Broccoli.—One ounce will produce from 2500 to 3000 plants, and require a seed bed of about forty square feet.

Brussels Sprouts.—The same as Broccoli.

Cabbage.—Early sorts the same as Broccoli; the late and Savoy sorts will require a seed bed of about sixty square feet.

Cauliflower.—The same as the later sorts of cabbage.

Carrot.—Three to four pounds are required to an acre, and one ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

Celery.—One ounce of seed will produce about 7000 or 8000 plants, and require a seed bed of about eighty square feet.

Cucumber.—One ounce of seed will be required for about 150 hills.

Curled Cress.—One ounce of seed will sow a bed containing sixteen square feet.

Egg Plant.—One ounce, if properly managed in the seed bed, will produce from 2500 to 3500 plants.

Kale.—The same as Broccoli.

Endive.—One ounce will produce about 3,500 plants and require a seed bed about eighty square feet.

Leek.—One ounce produces about 2000 or 2500 plants, and requires about 60 square feet of seed bed.

Lettuce.—One ounce will require a seed bed of about 120 square feet, and will produce 6000 or 7000 plants.

Melon.—One ounce will be quite sufficient for about 120 hills.

Nasturtium.—One ounce will sow 25 feet of row.

Onion.—From four to five pounds are required for an acre, when raised for the bulbs; one ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

Okra.—One ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

Parsley.—Six or seven pounds are required to the acre; one ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

Parsnip.—From five to six pounds are generally sown per acre; an ounce will sow about 250 feet of row.

Peppers.—One ounce will produce about 2000 or 2500 plants.

Peas.—From one to two bushels are required to an acre; one quart of the smaller sorts will sow about 120 feet of row, and of the larger sorts one quart will sow about 200 feet of row.

Pumpkin.—One quart of the common field sorts will plant from 500 to 600 hills, and, of the finer garden sorts, one ounce will plant, about fifty hills.

Radish.—From twelve to fourteen pounds of the early spring sorts are required to an acre, if sown broadcast; but half that quantity is sufficient if sown in drills. Of the later sorts five pounds to the acre, in drills, are sufficient. One ounce will sow about one hundred square feet.

Salsify.—From five to six pounds are generally allowed to an acre. One ounce will sow about 150 feet of row.

Spinach.—Cultivated in drill, from seven to eight pounds to the acre are sufficient; if sown broadcast, double that quantity. One ounce will sow about 200 feet of row.

Squash.—One ounce will plant from fifty to eighty hills, according to the sorts and size.

Tomato.—One ounce will produce about 2000 or 3000 plants, and require a seed bed of about eighty square feet.

Turnip.—From one or two pounds are generally allowed to an acre; one ounce will sow 2000 square feet.

Water Melon.—One ounce will plant from 40 to 50 hills.

AGRICULTURAL SEEDS.

Quantity varying according to the soil, and whether sown in drills or broadcast.

Wheat,	5	to	8	pecks	per acre.
Rye,	5½	to	6	"	"
Oats,	2	to	4	bush.	"
Barley,	1½	to	2	"	"
Millet,	¾	to	1½	"	"
Broom corn,	1	to	1½	"	"
Indian corn for soiling,	3	to	4	"	"
Peas, broadcast,	2½	to	3½	"	"
" in drills,	1	to	2	"	"
Beans, broadcast,	2	to	3	"	"
" in drills,	1	to	2	"	"
Buckwheat,	1	to	3	"	"
Timothy,	12	to	20	quarts	"
" with 6 to 10 pounds clover,	8	to	10	"	"
Red top,	16	to	24		"
Blue grass,	10	to	15	lbs	"
Rye,	10	to	16	"	"
Tall oat grass,	12	to	16	"	"
Orchard grass,	20	to	30	"	"
Red clover,	8	to	16	"	"
White "	2	to	4	"	"
Lucerne, broadcast,	3	to	12	"	"
" in drills,	12	to	18	"	"
Sainfoin, broadcast,	1	to	5	bush.	"
" in drills,	2	to	3	"	"
Potatoes,	15	to	20	"	"
Turnips,	1½	to	3	lbs.	"
Carrots, broadcast,	4	to	5	"	"
" in drills,	2	to	3	"	"
Parsnips, broadcast,	6	to	8	"	"
" in drills,	4	to	6	"	"
Beets, in drills,	4	to	5	"	"
Kohl Rabi,	2	to	2½	"	"
Rape, in drills,	2	to	3	"	"
" broadcast,	4	to	7	quarts	"
Mustard for seed,	8	to	12	"	"
" for ploughing under	12	to	20	"	"
Hemp,	1½	to	2½	bush.	"
Flax for seed,	4	to	6	pecks	"
" for fibre,	8	to	10	"	"
Teasels,	1	to	2	"	"
Rice,	2	to	2½	"	"

JAPANESE ODDITIES.—One great peculiarity of the people is their mania for squatting; they seem to do everything in this position, and even when a man is ploughing in a field he looks as if he wanted to squat. Their habits in many things seem to be so often exactly the opposite of ours, that it almost resolves itself into a rule that everything goes by contraries. When they cook a goose, instead of putting the goose on the fire, they put the fire in the goose, thus making a great saving of fuel. In planing or sawing a board, they plane or saw toward themselves instead of from themselves. When you go into a house, instead of taking off your hat you take off your shoes. Instead of saying John Smith, they would say Smith John, and instead of Mr. Brown, Brown Mister. The country is rich in flowers and in vegetable productions. They have carried the art of making paper to great perfection. Dr. McGowan showed an overcoat made of paper, perfectly strong and serviceable. In this country we have paper collars, but in Japan they go further, and have paper handkerchiefs, which are very beautiful and soft, and of very fine texture. But they are more delicate than we, in one respect. After they have used a handkerchief they throw it away, and are thus saved the trouble of a washerwoman. They even weave their paper, and make what may be called paper cloth of it.

COTTON IN THE LAST WAR WITH ENGLAND.—A correspondent of the Ohio *Farmer*, who was employed in a New England factory at that time, says that as the war progressed, factories increased in number and size.

As the British cruisers filled all our bays and inlets, we soon had to send teams and wagons to Virginia and the Carolinas, to haul cotton for the factories, paying five to six cents a pound for cotton, and twenty-five to forty cents per pound for hauling. Our cotton and woolen goods were then selling at much higher prices than now. We were then well supplied with wool and flax of our own raising, and a great majority of our families made all, or the greater portion of their clothing from these materials in their own dwellings.

In 1813, our factory made a purchase of cotton in Boston, at fifty cents per pound, called "Chili cotton;" it was superior to the then Southern cotton, and was packed in raw hides, laced up by thongs. I often think of this and query, "Can't we still get cotton from Peru and Chili?"

SHOEING HORSES AND OXEN—From the introduction of an article on this subject, written by Mr. D. Stiles, of Middleton, and published in the New Hampshire *Journal of Agriculture*, we clip the following paragraph. The writer, who says that he has been engaged in shoeing horses and oxen thirty-five years, admits that upon our gravelly soil and hard roads we *must* shoe, but says:

"More cattle and horses suffer from bad shoeing than all other causes put together. I have known many cases where, if they were let alone, even if their feet were worn through on the bottom and bled, it would be less painful and far more healthful to their feet. Did you ever know a horse or an ox whose feet were spoiled by going bare, or without shoes? I never did, and I don't believe anybody ever did, yet I have seen some sore feet, and so thin that you could see through to the quick, and the blood sometimes oozing out; but a little care in shoeing, or rest without shoeing, would make all right and *perfectly natural.*"

PLOUGHING. — Light or gravelly soils which quickly become dry, may be ploughed at almost any time; but rich loams should be taken at precisely the right period. If ploughed too early while yet wet, they may become poached and injured for the season. If left too late, the spring rains may have settled back what the frosts of winter have loosened. Ploughing well saves much labor in subsequent tillage. Narrow furrow slices, (except with sward,) pulverize the soil more perfectly, and leave a beautiful mellow surface. Furrows seven or eight inches deep, and only six inches wide are easy for the team, and leave the land in very handsome condition.—*Country Gentleman.*

HE who asked the daughter's hand, and got the father's foot, had the consolation of knowing that his wooing was not bootless.

DESTROY THE CATERPILLARS.

"E. G. F.," of Halifax, Nova Scotia, is announced in the *Plowman* to have discovered an infallible substance for the destruction of caterpillars. He says: "I can destroy every vestige of caterpillars from a hundred trees for $1 50." Yesterday morning, between the hours of five and six o'clock, pole and brush in hand, we visited some two hundred trees, and destroyed the nest of every caterpillar we could find. The wear of the brush could not have been more than two cents, and the hour occupied was abundantly paid for in visiting and observing the beautiful trees, in breathing the exhilarating air, and in listening to the songs of a variety of birds which were vocal with their morning praise. When "E. G. F." comes to make the destruction of caterpillars a practical matter, he will find it necessary to pass over the trees more than once during the season—perhaps over some of them half-a-dozen times—for they are continually being hatched out during ten or fifteen days, and some species as late as July and August. The expense incurred in the destruction of caterpillars is in the *time occupied* in the work, and where the trees are visited several times annually, four or five hundred trees will not require more than one full day's time, when the odd hours are all included. Believing that many readers do not fully appreciate the mischief caused by these insects, we quote a part of what Dr. HARRIS says of them in his "*Insects Injurious to Vegetation.*"

These insects, because they are the most common and most abundant in all parts of our country, and have obtained such notoriety that in common language they are almost exclusively known among us by the name of *the caterpillars*, are the worst enemies of the orchard. Where proper attention has not been paid to the destruction of them, they prevail to such an extent as almost entirely to strip the apple and cherry trees of their foliage, by their attacks continued during the seven weeks of their life in the caterpillar form, The trees, in those orchards and gardens where they have been suffered to breed for a succession of years, become prematurely old, in consequence of the efforts they are obliged to make to repair, at an unseasonable time, the loss of their foliage, and are rendered unfruitful, and consequently unprofitable. But this is not all; these pernicious insects spread in every direction, from the trees of the careless and indolent, to those of their more careful and industrious neighbors, whose labors are thereby greatly increased, and have to be followed up year after year, without any prospect of permanent relief.

Many methods and receipts for the destruction of these insects have been published and recommended, but have failed to exterminate them, and indeed have done but little to lessen their numbers, as, indeed, might be expected from the tenor of the foregoing remarks. In order to be completely successful *they must be universally adopted.* These means comprehend both the destruction of the eggs and of the caterpillars. The eggs are to be sought for in the winter and the early part of spring, when there are no leaves on the trees. They are easily discovered at this time, and may be removed with the thumb nail and fore finger, Nurseries and the lower limbs of large trees may thus be entirely cleared of the clusters of eggs during a few visits made at the proper season. It is well known that the caterpillars come out to feed twice during the daytime, namely, in the forenoon and afternoon, and that they rarely leave their nests before nine in the morning, and return to them again at noon. During the early part of the season, while the nests are small, and the caterpillars young and tender, and at those hours when the insects are gathered together within their common habitation, they may be effectually destroyed by crushing them by hand in the nests. A brush, somewhat like a bottle-brush, fixed to a long handle, as recommended by the late Colonel Pickering, or, for the want thereof, a dried mullein head and its stalk fastened to a pole, will be useful to remove the nests, with the caterpillars contained therein, from those branches which are too high to be reached by hand. Instead of the brush, we may use, with nearly equal success, a small mop or sponge, dipped as often as necessary into a pailful of refuse soapsuds, strong whitewash, or cheap oil. The mop should be thrust into the nest and turned round a little, so as to wet the caterpillars with the liquid, which will kill every one that it touches. These means, to be effectual, should be employed during the proper hours, that is, early in the morning, at midday, or at night, and as soon in the spring as the caterpillars begin to make their nests; and they should be repeated as often, at least, as once a week, till the insects leave the trees.

Early attention and perseverance in the use of these remedies will, in time, save the farmer hundreds of dollars, and abundance of mortification and disappointment, besides rewarding him with the grateful sight of the verdant foliage, snowy blossoms, and rich fruits of his orchard in their proper seasons.

A NEW BUTTER-WORKER.

Sometime last fall we spoke of having seen the operations of a new machine for separating the buttermilk from butter. Since that time, we have had one of them in operation, and believe it has been fairly tested. Giving it our personal attention—aided by our excellent and skilful wife, in butter-making—we found the results as favorable as stated by the inventor, or as could be desired. The process of excluding the buttermilk is *simple, quick* and *effective.* Any one can go through it without hesitation. The butter came through dry, brittle, and without being in any way injured, so far as we could observe.

A letter just received from the inventor, GEORGE W. PUTNAM, of Peterboro', Madison county, N. Y., says E. D. BACON, Esq., of Peterboro', "keeps a large store, and as is the practice of country merchants take in small lots of butter through the spring and summer, and packs it in firkins for the New York market." He said "he had as hard a looking lot of butter as he ever saw any where,"

and he wished to try the power of my machine in mixing it. It was of all colors, from that of the whitest lard, to the deepest yellow ever obtained from carrot coloring. It certainly did look formidable. We went to work, and on putting it through the machine twice, the colors were thoroughly mixed, and on inserting the "Tryer" in a 90 pound firkin, *no difference of color could be seen!* He showed the results in mixing butter to several persons, and they all declared with him "that the butter looked as even in color as the *best dairy-packed, butter*, and at the same time there was not a vestige of buttermilk in it—while, in almost every firkin of dairy-packed butter, the 'Tryer' would show the buttermilk in drops all through its length."

Judging from the trials we have made of the machine, we should expect the results which Mr. Putnam describes. If the machine was in general use, our markets would show a vastly superior *quality* of butter over that which they now contain, we have no doubt.

That the machine accomplishes what is desired of it, seems to us quite certain. How much butter must be made, in order that one of them shall be profitable, must be decided by each buttermaker for herself.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

A LAME MARE.

I have a valuable mare that was taken lame a number of weeks since, and as I do not know what to do for it, I would be pleased to get information from some of your numerous correspondents, (through your paper,) concerning the same. There seems to be a soreness in the heel of her forward foot. She endeavors to walk on her toe, and don't bring her heel down readily, and after travelling awhile she holds her foot out forward as though it pained her. There is no appearance of any injury externally. It seems to be an internal soreness in the heel, just back of the frog. I have had her shod several times since she became lame, and the blacksmith found no gravel in the foot, nor discovered any cause for the lameness. If you can give me any information concerning the treatment of this lameness, I should be very much obliged for the same. H. W. Eaton.

Fairhaven, May, 1863.

Remarks.—From the symptoms which you have described, we are inclined to think that the difficulty lies in the *shoulder* and not in the foot. If the mare is valuable, is it not worth while to call in to your aid the advice of some veterinary doctor?

IT WILL NOT DO FOR ALL TO THINK ALIKE.

In the *Farmer* of April 25th, "W. D. B.," of Concord, Mass., thinks it unprofitable to raise Indian corn about here, and thinks we had better let the West raise the corn. I agree with him. I think at the present prices (oats 80 cents and corn $1 per bushel) it pays to raise oats and buy corn. If we should all think so, corn would be *up*, and oats would be *down*. By not raising corn I get more time to raise vegetables, strawberries, &c. Last year I raised (from about four rods square) over 400 boxes of strawberries. I think it pays. If we should all think so, corn would be up, and strawberries would be down. I know of men who go in for raising wool, and are going to keep all the lambs they raise, both male and female. They think it pays. If we should all think so, hay, meat, butter, cheese and milk would be up, and wool would be down. And so it would be if we should all go in for any one thing, that thing would surely be down. If every one should think as much of Leghorn hens as I do, the country would be full of eggs, and *setting* hens would be scarce. H. F. Gates.

New Worcester, 1863.

CHERRY TREE--GROUND BONE—HORSE POWER.

Can you or any of your correspondents tell me the reason why a cherry tree does not bear or rather mature its fruit when it blossoms every year? I have one, and only one, that I grafted several years ago, but I do not recollect that it has matured a single cherry. It is in full bloom now, but probably I shall not get any fruit.

Is not ground bone one of the best, if not the *very* best fertilizers out? What is the price of it per lb.? Can you or any of the readers of the *Farmer* give me any information respecting a machine termed a two-horse planet power? Is it reliable? &c.

Wrentham, May, 1863. Old Subscriber.

Remarks.—We cannot answer the questions with regard to the cherry tree or horse power. Ground bone is an excellent fertilizer—whether the best in the world or not, we cannot say.

RENOVATE AN OLD PASTURE.

How can I renovate an old pasture, too rocky to plough? Soil rather dry; considerable moss has got in. Would you apply ashes as a topdressing? leached or unleached? at what time? X.

Keene, N. H., May 21, 1863.

Remarks.—Sow ashes, leached or not, as you can obtain them, then various grass seeds, and follow with the harrow pretty thoroughly. Do it now, or as soon as convenient. Early next April sow ten pounds of clover seed per acre, and some well composted manure if possible. In the ensuing fall send us an account of results, will you? This is one way. If the land is low and wet, drain it, or the course recommended will be of little use.

RECORDS OF SHEEP.

We have no blanks, and no means of furnishing them, suitable for keeping records of sheep, as inquired for by a correspondent. The labels sent are ingenious, and we should think would prove very serviceable.

THE CHICKADEE.

Will J. A. A. please give a description of the Chickadee? Orrin Hager.

Wallingford, Vt., Feb., 1863.

How to Stuff Birds.—On another page, we have given an article on this subject, written for the *Farmer* more than ten years ago, by our late excellent Associate and friend Judge French. An article on the subject has been repeatedly called for, recently, and we republish this as the clearest and most comprehensive account in our knowledge.

Worth Knowing.—Green copperas dissolved in water will effectually concentrate and destroy the foulest smells, and if placed under a bed in hospitals and sick rooms, will render the atmosphere free and pure. For butcher's stalls, fish markets, sinks, and wherever there are offensive, putrid gases, dissolved copperas sprinkled about will, in a day or two, purify the atmosphere, and an application once a week will keep it sweet and healthy.

For the New England Farmer.

ON COOKED AND UNCOOKED FOOD.

MR. EDITOR:—Your correspondent of Kensington mistakes in supposing that my mind is pretty much on potatoes. He writes as though I recommended potatoes for fattening hogs. My remarks on potatoes were to illustrate my idea of the value of cooked food compared with raw. Hogs can be fatted on cooked potatoes; no person of experience will attempt to do it on raw. One of the most successful farmers I ever knew—one who found farming profitable—had a large oven constructed, and baked his potatoes for his hogs, which he thus fatted to four hundred weight each. That was when potatoes were worth ten or twelve cents a bushel, and could be raised on rough land at the rate of two to three hundred bushels to the acre. Now, it requires good land and good cultivation to get a hundred bushels of sound potatoes to the acre. But to return to the subject of cooked or raw food. Your correspondent alludes to the practice of many persons to feed raw corn and whole, and suggests that the experiments of Ellsworth were in 1847, before the later practice. I suppose hogs were then pretty much like the hogs of the present day, and corn the same. In this part of the country, many, and very large proportion of people, have no barn cellars and let their cattle range up and down the road; but that is no argument to convince me that this is the best treatment of cattle or the most profitable way to save manure. It has been a standing maxim that what an animal digests affords the nutriment, not what it eats, merely. If this still holds true, the large part of the hard corn eaten by hogs that passes them undigested is lost. If crushed and cooked, it would not be.

When I was a boy there was much said about a great Morrell hog that weighed over six hundred pounds, a very large hog for that day, and he was fatted on hasty pudding and milk. If it made him sleepy it gave him rest to fatten.

The many cases of practice quoted by Mr. Brown do not purport to be founded on well tried experiments, and prove nothing against the experience and observation of practical men.

RUFUS MCINTIRE.

Parsonsfield, Me., 1863.

For the New England Farmer.

TREES AND VINES, AND THEIR ROOTS.

There exists an impression among farmers that the roots of trees extend no further horizontally than their limbs do vertically. So of vines—that the spread of the roots and the vine are equal. On such matters as this farmers have no right to mere impressions; they, of all men, should have positive knowledge. This belongs to their department and it is not to the honor of a man to have eyes no better than mere lenses for his special calling. When I go into a store and find the keeper knows nothing more of the goods he is daily handling, of their material, of their manufacture, and of the many questions that would suggest themselves to any intelligent person, than my own fingers and eyes will at the moment give, I, of necessity, set that man down as a stupid dolt—who has voluntarily become a slave that he may thereby get money. This is the disgrace of a man, not *what* he does, whether he is a rag-gatherer or a merchant prince, but that he is a mere drudge at it, a mere finger-worker, or a mere eye-worker, with no mind that subjects all things to itself and makes the business but intellectual and spiritual pabulum for the building of a man. It is not necessary that any farmer should be but a mere worker, a mere drudge; but necessity oftentimes presses him close towards these narrow confines, and he, therefore, who invents labor-saving machines, and thus lessons the pressure of labor on the husbandman, does more for his mental and moral improvement than many learned essays heavy with dolorous lamentations and emphatic with injunctions.

But to return to the root of this matter—a tree root it is—while uncovering my seed cabbage the other day, I found the root of a mulberry tree traversing the soil at a great distance from the parent tree. I called old "Mike's" attention to it, but he was sure it couldn't be the root of the tree, for he had heard say in the "ould counthry" that the roots of an ash could never run farther than its top. "But, see here, Mike," said I, "you see how yellow it is, as yellow as a gold dollar, so it must be from the mulberry tree, and from nothing else."

This Mike couldn't deny, though the supreme sovereignty of his native oak tree might be somewhat limited thereby; so he took the lath lying near by (we use the lath for the seed cabbage; four feet by two is a good rule) and measured the distance to the tree. It was just forty-four feet from where we found the root; and as the root was there about one-quarter of an inch in diameter, it would be safe to estimated that the root extended fifty feet from its native tree. We found the height of the tree to be about twenty-five feet.

Observing people could readily recount a score of illustrations proving that the roots of trees and vines do extend further than the vertical or horizontal growth above ground. The impression that the roots of squash vines keep pace with the spread of the vine itself, is entirely erroneous. Four years ago I traced the root of a vine five feet from the hill, though the vine had, at that date, made a growth of but eighteen inches.

Any one can have a very pleasing illustration on this point by planting squashes in a rich, porous soil, and depositing some manure on the surface at various distances from the vines. In a short time, on lifting the manure, a beautiful display will present itself: a plexure, or net work of ten thousand little white rootlets will be seen, so numerous and so minute as to confuse the eye and appear like a thin mist on the surface.

JAMES J. H. GREGORY.

Marblehead, May, 1863.

CALVES.—The great secret of success in raising calves, after keeping them clean and comfortable, is very regular and uniform feeding, combined with nutritious food, and avoiding all sudden changes in their food. On the whole, it is best to wean them very early, as they will then never suck the cow again, nor themselves. Their food may at first be new milk, then warm skimmed milk, then skimmed milk with meal intermixed, thus passing from new milk to common food with meal, and being especially careful that all these changes should be very gradual, and almost imperceptible. —*Country Gentleman.*

EXCELLENT WINTER SQUASHES.

The Canada Crookneck Squash.

Perhaps no vegetable is better known—unless it be the potato—among our New England people, than the *Canada Crookneck Squash.* It has several excellent qualities. It is hardy, the vines suffering but little from bugs and worms; the crop is almost a certain one, and it ripens early, and when ripe may be preserved through the entire year. It is uniform in quality, sweet, rich and excellent every way. The good old custom of hanging them about the kitchen walls, where they remained sound and fresh until May or June, is not entirely done away with yet, as we have recently seen them in prime condition.

Mr. BURR, who has kindly favored us with the above pleasant illustration, says, "the plants of this variety are similar in habit to those of the common *Winter Crookneck;* but the foliage is smaller, and the growth less luxuriant. In point of size, the Canada Crookneck is the smallest of its class. When the variety is unmixed, the weight seldom exceeds five or six pounds. It is sometimes bottle-formed; but the neck is generally small, solid, and curved in the form of the large Winter Crooknecks. The seeds are contained at the blossom-end, which expands somewhat abruptly, and is often slightly ribbed. Skin of moderate thickness, and easily pierced by the nail; color, when fully ripened, cream-yellow, but, if long kept, becoming duller and darker; flesh salmon-red, very close-grained, dry, sweet, and fine-flavored; seeds comparatively small, of a grayish or dull white color, with a rough and uneven yellowish-brown border; three hundred are contained in an ounce."

The Hubbard Squash.

We have raised and used this squash for several years, and the advice of the women is, *to plant no other kind.* As a whole, it is the best squash we have. It was introduced by J. J. H. GREGORY, Esq., of Marblehead, who has frequently spoken of it through these columns. There is one fact in relation to it which may not be generally known, that it is excellent in its early growth, say a third grown, as good as the early Summer Squash, Cymbling, or Scolloped Squash, as it is variously called.

Mr. BURR, in his new work on "*Field and Garden Vegetables,*" says "the fruit is irregularly oval, sometimes ribbed, but often without rib-markings, from eight to ten inches in length, seven or eight inches in diameter, and weighing from seven to nine pounds—some specimens terminate quite obtusely, others taper sharply towards the extremities, which are frequently bent or curved; skin, or shell, dense and hard, nearly one-eighth of an inch thick, and overspread with numerous small protuberances; stem fleshy, but not large; color variable, always rather dull, and usually clay-blue or deep olive-green,—the upper surface, if long exposed to the sun, assuming a brownish cast, and the under surface, if deprived of light, becoming

orange-yellow; flesh rich salmon-yellow, thicker than that of the Autumnal Marrow, very fine-grained, sweet, dry, and of most excellent flavor—in this last respect, resembling that of roasted or boiled chestnuts; seeds white—similar to those of the Autumnal Marrow. Season from September to June; but the flesh is dryest and sweetest during autumn and the early part of winter.

The Hubbard squash should be grown in hills seven feet apart, and three plants allowed to a hill. It is essential that the planting be made as far as possible from similar varieties, as it mixes, or hybridizes, readily with all of its kind. In point of productiveness, it is about equal to the Autumnal Marrow. The average yield from six acres was nearly five tons of marketable squashes to the acre."

FORTY thousand head of cattle, worth $1,600,000, have been sent East from Iowa, in the past year.

For the New England Farmer.

HOW TO STUFF BIRDS.

MY DEAR BROWN:—In a recent number of the *Farmer*, in reply to a correspondent who asks information on the above subject, you refer to me as one skilled in the art of *Taxidermy*, and willing to impart knowledge to others. Now there are many things very easily done by those who *know how*, and yet very difficult to teach by pen and ink, to those who have no idea of the process.

If you doubt the truth of the proposition, sit down some pleasant morning, and describe the process of *editing a newspaper*, so that we can all understand it as well as you!

I flatter myself that I can skin and stuff a bird so that he will look, as the artist said of his portrait, *a little more natural than life*, and enjoy as much of *immortality* as bones and feathers are suceptible of, but whether I can set the process down, so that all your readers can go and do likewise, remains to be seen. I made my collection, of about a hundred New Hampshire birds, between 1835 and 1838, and they remain as perfect as when just completed.

I have delayed answering your correspondent, hoping to find in some printed book directions on the subject, that might save me the trouble of writing, but not one word do I find, and as I had no teacher myself, I dare say that they who have skill in such matters may smile at my awkwardness. To any such, I would say that if they could only see the big Washington Eagle, which looks down from the top of a book-case, with such a patronizing air upon me as I write, ready to lend me a quill *two feet long*, in case of emergency, they would be glad to laugh on *our* side.

As in the case of a duel, the preliminaries are longer than the actual fight, so the preparations for stuffing the bird are the larger half of the work, at least on paper.

Arsenical Soap.

To preserve the skins of animals from putrifaction and from insects, *arsenic* is the substance generally used. Many persons use it in the form of dry powder, as sold at the shops. I have used a preparation, called arsenical soap, warmed so as to melt together over a slow fire, with an ounce of camphor gum added, just before the mixture cools. It is applied to the skin, *inside* of course, with a brush, like *lather* to ones chin. The proportions may be by weight, ten ounces of arsenic *(oxyde of arsenic,)* five ounces of white bar soap, and one ounce of gum camphor; the arsenic and soap melted together over a slow fire, and the camphor added when the mixture is nearly cold. At the Patent Office, at Washington, the Taxidermists use, instead of arsenical soap, a preparation of about an ounce of arsenic in a gill of camphorated spirits. By the latter term, I understand, a saturated solution of alcohol with camphor gum. Add the arsenic and shake them up together in a bottle. I should think this preparation might be more convenient than arsenical soap. It is applied with a brush in the same way as the other.

Implements.

For tools, a sharp knife with a flat ivory handle, like a budding knife, a pair of cutting forceps, a pair of pincers, and a pair of small tweezers, such as watchmakers use, will be found convenient. Annealed iron wire, of various sizes, according to the victim to be sacrificed, will be required to support the birds, when mounted, and a quantity of *tow* for stuffing. Cotton will not answer the purpose, because, as every girl who ever made a pincushion can tell, it is difficult to thrust even a sharp wire through it.

How to kill a Bird.

It is quite an easy matter, to shoot a bird, and most birds *must* be shot, but often living birds are brought to us, and as one would dislike to skin them alive, it is necessary to kill them in a proper and becoming manner. You can easily wring their necks, or cut their heads off, but since feathers are considered somewhat ornamental to birds, this kind of violence will not do. Blood can be easily washed off of *water* birds, but not from *land* birds, so conveniently. *Poison* will not affect birds of prey, such as hawks and the like. I gave my eagle a teaspoonful of *prussic acid*, and instead of dying of it, he seemed rather refreshed.

The scientific mode of murdering the poor innocent creatures, if they are not too large to handle, is *to pinch them with the thumb and finger under the wings* so as to stop respiration, and as gentle Isaac Walton says, in directing how to put a live frog on to a fish hook, "in so doing, handle him as if you loved him." Byron says, by the way, that Walton was "a quaint, old, cruel coxcomb," and that he deserved to have "a hook in his gullet"—"with a small trout to pull it." If any one objects to having birds killed, he "had better stop," as the Irishman said, *"before he begins"* his collection.

How to Skin and Stuff Him.

Stop the mouth, nostrils and shot holes with cotton, to prevent the flow of blood. Lay the bird on its back, part the feathers on the breast, and cut through the skin from the breast bone nearly to the tail. If the blood flows, use powdered plaster, or something better, if you know what it is, to absorb it. Separate the bone of the wings at the joint, from the breast bone. Cut off the neck, close to the breast. Separate the leg bones from the body, leaving the bone in the bare part of the leg, and one joint above, and take the body out. Put in some cotton or tow to prevent the skin from sticking together. Turn the neck wrong side out, till you reach the skull, and cut away the neck and enough of the skull bone to lay the brain bare, which is to be removed, as well as the *eyes*, on the inside. Apply the arsenic and stuff the head and neck with *tow*, as you turn it back.

By this time, the subject will have lost all resemblance to the bird *he was*, and it will seem almost as hopeless to make a cabinet ornament of his mortal remains, as to make him fly and sing again, but he will soon improve.

Take a piece of wire about a third longer than the bird, and bend it, so as to form a loop near the middle, and file each end sharp. Thrust one end through the neck and out through the forehead, and the other through the tail. Thrust another down inside of each leg, between the skin and bone, through the sole of the foot, and twist the upper ends round the loop, and wind a thread or some tow round the leg bone and wire inside the skin. These are to support the bird on his perch, and must be firm. Twist another wire, to form a cross with the first, and confine it at the loop, and

thrust it under the skin of the wings. This wire, which is to support the wings, may be omitted in very small birds, and perhaps in all, except those which it is desired to put into very *rampant* attitudes, the skin of the wing being strong enough, when dry, to keep the wing in place. Open the skin of the wing underneath, and remove the flesh, and apply arsenic to the bones and skin.

Finish stuffing, and sew up the cut in the skin, and any other accidental holes, with a fine needle and thread; find some sprightly posture in an engraving, or imitate nature, if you can, and having smoothed his dress, and arranged him to your fancy, on an artificial stone made of a pasteboard form, sanded, or on a twig, or block, you may consider him finished, except the eyes. These are of glass, and can be procured, of all sorts, in Boston. They may be put in at any time, by moistening the eyelids.

In arranging birds in a cabinet, of course, one will put *the best side out*, just as the ladies put the trimming on the *congregation side* of their bonnets, and there are various other little innocent "tricks of the trade," such as supplying a few feathers from another bird of the same species, or even a wing or leg, if necessary, that will occur to a youth of genius.

As food for reflection to those who see in such pursuits—pursuits which filled the soul of such men as Wilson and Nuttal and Audubon—nothing worthy of the attention of rational men, let me quote, in conclusion, a few lines from Boker's "Calaynos:"

"He! why to him the gay are butterflies,
Flitting around a light, of which they died.
He looks on pleasure as a kind of sin;
Calls pastime waste-time. Each to his trade say I.
I heard a man who spent a mortal life
In hoarding up all kinds of stones and ores,
Call one, who spitted flies upon a pin,
A fool, to pass his precious life-time thus
What might delight you, lady, may not him;
And yet your pleasures argue you no fool,
Nor his grave brows prove a philosopher.

Exeter, N. H., June, 1852. H. F. F.

For the New England Farmer.

THE TWO LABOR SYSTEMS OF OUR COUNTRY.

MR. EDITOR:—If there has ever been any conspicuous difference in regard to the advantages between Northern and Southern methods of labor, it is certainly manifested at the present time. While the prices of products of all kinds, at the South, are now enormous, and of many necessary articles there is an utter destitution, at the North plenty abounds, and although thousands of those who have been accustomed to labor in the field have joined the army, yet the necessaries of life are with us comparatively cheap. But, how is it with the South? True, although few laborers have been taken away, yet even of those products which they raise upon their plantations, there seems to be but a small supply, and in many places actual starvation is occurring. Steadily and surely, within the last twenty-five years, has Northern labor shown its superiority, and the gap between it and slave labor has become more and more perceptible. While the Southern States have remained at a stand, emigration has been pouring into the Northern. The vast West, a few years ago a wilderness, has now many large and flourishing cities, and all over that part of our country the true signs of prosperity are apparent in the energy and thrift of the population. The one system is degrading in its influences, brutalizing in its effects, bringing out all the lowest passions of man's nature. The other seeks to develop our higher faculties, brings forth the latent powers of our minds, and places man where man should be. The one system is never found but in the midst of poverty, vice and ignorance. The other encourages education, the establishment of institutions of learning and liberally patronizes science and the arts. The South realized this, and comprehending in some measure, the inferiority of their labor system, thought fit, before it was totally destroyed by the advancement of Northern enterprise, to secede from the Union. But the day of its death is not far away, its doom is surely recorded. As long as the American farmer can maintain the proud position he now possesses, of being an intelligent, active, patriotic man, who not only can understand the nature of the soil he tills, the ingredients of which it is composed, the remedies for its renovation, but also the workings of our government, and is prepared to do his part in the solution of national and practical difficulties, as we find is the case in our Legislatures, he need be under no apprehension that the Southern system of labor can compare with the Northern. If the South should at last be recognized, as the Southern Confederacy, the advantages we now possess would still remain stronger than before, and deprived of the aid of the Northern States, with their commerce paralyzed, and the preponderance of trade with European powers carried on by us, very soon their corrupt government would fall to pieces or become of insignificant importance. Then, may the cultivated intelligence of the North, uphold the same noble principle of our fathers, which took years to gain, and which they transmitted, a priceless legacy, for the generation to cherish and protect. ÆGIS.

North Weymouth, Feb. 1, 1863.

For the New England Farmer.

FLESH AS FOOD.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—It has been a question among moral philosophers, whether it was lawful to kill animals and eat their flesh as food, to sustain their own lives, but the argument has generally turned in favor of meat-eating. I believe that the eating of animals is justified by the Bible, custom and natural desire. The appetite of all animals indicates what is most suitable for food for each variety of grade, from the lowest that moves in and under the waters of the ocean, up to the highest orders of animal creation; thus every degree of animal vitality in and under the waters, as well as above the waters, is left by instinct (except man) to select that kind of food most congenial to its own requirements. Cannibals eat those they *love, their enemies;* all carnivorous animals will eat those of other species, if not their own; very few of them, except fish, are so revolting to nature as man, who has had the reputation of eating his own wives. Mankind, in a reputed civilized state, eat the creatures they love, like the cannibals; their pet chickens, pigs, lambs, kids, calves, and many other little innocent, playful creatures, which their wives and daughters have nursed with the tenderest love and care, and which we delight to exhibit to our friends, are surrendered to the remorseless butcher, and then

we wipe our mouths and say, "We are innocent." It is true that people can live upon vegetables alone for a length of time, but whether to the prolongation of life is a question. The requisite quantity of carbon, or fat, to sustain the body in a healthy condition extracted from a vegetable diet, must overburden the digestive organs and retard their power of action, more than obtaining the requisite amount of carbon directly from good meat. The carbon or fat is a necessary ingredient in the formation of the blood, and the roundabout way of extracting this ingredient from vegetables alone, in some constitutions, will overburden the stomach and result in dyspepsia. Vegetarians derive the same nutritive elements from vegetables that the flesh-eater does from meat; the vegetarian eats more in quantity than the meat-eater, to get the necessary material to be changed into chyle, blood and flesh; the meat-eater's food is more concentrated, and less in bulk is required to furnish the same amount of nutritive principle; the grass and vegetables which the ox eats are of the first organization, and therefore he has to eat enormous quantities of them to derive a sufficient quantity of oil from such innutritious food to be converted, through the process of digestion, into fat to cover his ribs to fit him for the shambles.

He that eats the ox eats the product of the second organization, and he gets precisely the same constituents from the beef that the ox derives from the herbage, but in a more direct way. Physicians prescribe cod liver oil to scrofulous patients that cannot eat fat meat, in order that the lungs may be supplied with a due proportion of carbon. In the Arctic Regions, the rice-eater of India or the Jew of Palestine who would loathe swine's flesh at home, by the instinct of appetite, would greedily devour the oil of the "beloved seal," on being transferred to those regions. The appetite, in any country or climate, is the most reliable indication of what the system requires for sustenance. SILAS BROWN.

North Wilmington, Jan., 1863.

For the New England Farmer.

PROFITS FROM PIGS AND POULTRY.

MR. EDITOR:—"More Anon," in his "Retrospective Notes" of March 21, makes some very just observations respecting the unprofitableness of feeding pigs with swill too much reduced, or diluted. His remarks reminded me of the story of a certain farmer who was told he could fatten his hogs upon sawdust, by mixing some meal with it; but he soon ascertained that his swine increased in size, and grew fat just in proportion to the amount of meal mixed with the sawdust. It is probably pretty much the same with "dishwater;" it will make the pigs thrive in proportion to the milk, meal, or other nutritious food which is mixed with it. I suppose, however, there may be danger, (though not as much) of making swill too thick as well as too thin. It seems to me that pigs which are so fed as to gain one pound or more per day, and thus weigh from 300 to 400 pounds when ten months old, will not be disposed to take sufficient exercise to be healthy themselves, or to promote the health of those who may consume them; nor will they be much inclined to turn over and mix together the muck and other materials which may be furnished them for the purpose of making manure, which is the principal source of profit; for I suppose it is generally admitted that if persons in this part of the country are obliged to purchase everything upon which to feed their pigs, so far as pork is concerned, they may about as well buy as raise it; but the manure, if rightly managed, is nearly so much clear gain. This, however, like the food upon which the swine are fed, may be too much adulterated to be profitable.

But enough of pigs, at least for the present, for I wish to refer to "Mr. Ives's" account of his poultry, which appeared in the paper of the date above mentioned.

He calls it his yearly account, commencing the first of March, 1862, and, of course, should have closed the last of Feb. 1663, but it will be seen there is an item of $2 24 as the expense for March of the present year, and also another of $11 69 as the income from 46½ dozens of eggs for the same month. Now it is said we should not count our chickens before they are hatched, but this can certainly be called counting eggs before they are laid, for the account was published the 21st of March, and was probably sent to the printer several days previous to that time. Either Mr. Ives, or "the wicked type setter," must have made a mistake.

As 85 dozens of eggs were sold for $1 per dozen, it is fair for Mr. Ives to average his at 25 cents, but if I am not mistaken, the "market price" the past year, as reported in the *Farmer*, has not averaged more than 20 cents. Judging from the number of eggs laid in the month of May, I infer that the hens which set in April did not bring up their chickens, but that they were raised by hand, or after the fashion of those hatched in Egyptian ovens, and they must have grown like young giants. I believe the farmers in this vicinity think it is doing pretty well if they can obtain $1 per pair even for their early chickens, but with the exception of 12 young roosters sold to the butcher, it seems Mr. Ives received that sum for each of his, and unless the average price of poultry the past year was more than 12½ cents, they must have weighed eight pounds apiece, or about twice as much as common fowls.

I was led to examine Mr. Ives' account somewhat carefully, (perhaps he will call it critically,) because it seemed to me the net gain or profit, $139 18 was very large; for I have known several persons who have engaged in the poultry business, and after a year or two of trial, gave it up, as being unprofitable. But "circumstances alter cases," and results will vary accordingly, and we cannot be surprised that persons come to different conclusions upon the same subject, when some of our Legislative Solons stand up in the State House, and gravely inform the farmers of Massachusetts, that sand which is used for *filtering* is as valuable as muck, for the purpose of *absorbing* liquid manure! A. C. W.

Leominster, May, 1863.

GOOD TILLAGE IS MANURE.

The *Germantown Telegraph* says farmers do not generally realize the fact, that good, clean tillage is about equal to an application of manure to lands cultivated slovenly. We all know how much larger crops we realize in the garden than upon the farm, just from the superior attention paid to it in cleansing the ground of all noxious vegeta-

tion and frequently hoeing and otherwise stirring the soil. The *Genesee Farmer* makes some useful remarks on this subject, as follows:

"We must, more than ever before, realize the fact that *'tillage is manure'*—that the literal meaning of the word 'manure' (*manus*, hand, and *ouvrer*, to work,) is hand-labor. To manure the land is to hoe, to dig, to stir the soil, to expose it to the atmosphere, to plough, to harrow, to cultivate. The ancient Romans made Stercutius a god, because he discovered that the droppings of animals had the same effect in enriching the soil as to hoe it. We can leave the modern method of manuring land to our Western farmers, while we go back to the original method of stirring the soil. Mr. Lawes has raised a good crop of wheat *every season* for over twenty years on the same land by simply keeping it thoroughly clean by two ploughings in the fall and by hoeing the wheat in spring by hand. The Rev. S. Smith, of Lois-Weedon, has for years raised successive crops of wheat by a process of trenching the land with a fork and by hand-hoeing. We do not advocate this system, but the *principle* is applicable to our case. We *can* manure our land by better tillage."

WOOL REPORT TO THE BOARD OF TRADE.

This Report, made to the Board of Trade by Messrs. GEO. WM. BOND and GEO. LIVERMORE, we have read with interest, as it is intimately connected with one branch of our great manufacturing pursuits. It appears that, under *ordinary* circumstances, we raise but about two-thirds of our supply of wool, and depend upon importations for the balance.

A singular fact is stated, and one very different from what most people anticipated, *that there has been in no part of the world any perceptible advance in wool traceable to the effect of the scarcity of cotton!*

In the course of the report it is incidentally stated that "the French army expenses during the year ending March, 1862, were $85,150,000. The French army is about 630,000 strong. On the 1st of January, 1860, it had under arms 550,994 men; on furlough, 64,471; in reserve, 11,017 men; total strength, 626,482 men. The report adds:

"Never has the wool business of this city been more prosperous than during the past year. The quantity of domestic growth received here for sale has been much larger than in any former years. Several new houses have been established, and the trade, heretofore scattered, has now centered itself in a portion of the city convenient to the manufacturers, in commodious warehouses, well adapted to the business, which, as a whole, are superior to those occupied by the same class of trade in any city of the Union. The imports of wool from abroad have been considerably above the average in Boston, while those into New York have been far above any previous year. A considerable portion of this was for Boston account, and found its way here for sale.

The total import into the United States cannot have been less than 60,000,000 pounds, the largest portion of this being in the unwashed state, makes it equivalent to not more than 40,000,000 pounds of domestic growth.

* * * * * * *

In 1861 we called attention to the importance of the California wool trade, and to the enterprise of Messrs. Glidden & Williams in establishing a line of packets from San Francisco to Boston. We are happy to say that we are realizing the full benefits which we anticipated.

The clip of that State, then estimated at 3,000,000 pounds, has now increased to nearly 6,000,000, and in 1863 will not probably fall short of 8,000,000. Of the clip of 1862, 43 per cent. found its way to Boston in the ships of this line.

If California increases in wool growing as she has done, the next census will show her to be the leading wool growing State of the Union.

For the New England Farmer.

RETROSPECTIVE NOTES.

"WINTER FEEDING OF SHEEP," AND SUMMER PREPARATIONS FOR IT.—*March No., page* 85.—As every item of correct information in regard to sheep husbandry is of special importance during the present sheep fever, and as the article referred to above not only contains some information which may be made of value to those who may keep sheep another winter, but presents, also, one or two peculiarities of practice upon which a few words of comment may be made with hope of advantage to some brother sheep-keeper, it has seemed worth while to notice it, although the subject of winter feeding of sheep may seem, at first glance, an unseasonable one. To be as well prepared as possible for carrying his sheep through the next winter in the best manner possible, the man of forethought will take note of every valuable hint he may find before winter comes, in order to derive from them, if possible, some improvement upon his previous modes of managing. Perhaps there may be some of this model class of men who may find something worth remembering for the formation of plans for next winter, especially as a supply of ruta baga will have to be grown this summer, if our remarks on the utility of this root in the winter feeding of sheep should comend themselves to the judgment of those concerned.

It is in summer, moreover, that provision must be made for the winter feeding of sheep. If they are to be fed on oats, rather than on corn; or if they are to have potatoes to as large an extent as Mr. Baxter has been in the habit of feeding them; or if they are to have all the ruta bagas that would be good for them; then it is in summer that these things must be provided. According to this way of looking at the matter, it is quite as seasonable to be thinking about the winter feeding of sheep now as at any other season of the year. What will be wanted for them, and which of many things will be best for them and for their owners, the owners should be thinking of now, and should have their plans as to what crops, and how much of them, they must raise for their flocks, all thoroughly matured and settled in their minds, long before winter, yea even before the season of planting and sowing shall be upon us. We can lay out our plans, and proportion our crops to our wants much more wisely and judiciously now, than we

shall be able to do when the hurry of spring work and cares shall be making incessant demands upon the energy both of body and mind.

What provision should be made, then, during summer, for the winter feeding of sheep? In the article under notice, Mr. Baxter says he has fed out as many as 500 bushels of potatoes to 100 sheep during one winter; 400 during another; and 110 during another. In place of hay he seems to use oat straw and corn fodder, (the straw being green enough to be good,) at least until the straw is nearly gone, as feeding hay once or twice a day spoils their appetite for the straw. After commencing on hay he merely uses straw enough to keep one rack filled up with it all the time, so that they can go and pick at it when they please. The grain which he gives his sheep seems to be mainly oats, which he feeds in the unthreshed state; at least he does not say anything about corn or any other grain. Probably Mr. Baxter would confer a favor on some of his brother sheep-keepers if he would inform them of the grounds for his preference of oats, and especially whether he has found that he gets better and stronger lambs, when he feeds oats to the ewes, than when he has fed corn, or oil cake, or other stuffs which have a more direct tendency to form fat than oats are usually supposed to have. We presume there are many beside myself who would like to have the opinion of their brethren as to the relative influence of oats and corn upon the healthiness and vigor of lambs. A writer in the *Country Gentleman*, Oct. 23d, 1862, and in the *Cultivator* (Albany) of November, has a decided preference for oats as the best grain for breeding ewes, "as it develops the frame-work of the lamb, or in other words, is a bone and muscle-growing feed, while corn or oil meal is best to fat sheep." He says that these latter articles tend to form too much fat, and too little bone and muscle in the lamb—an opinion which seems to coincide with the results of an unfortunate experience we had one season some years ago, when, after feeding the ewes quite freely on corn, we had quite a number of lambs who could scarcely stand up to suck, and were, many of them, wholly unfit to follow their mothers about the pasture. A few were so weak in the spine or back as to get bent in, and be all out of shape. Will some of the readers of this journal give us the benefit of their experience as to this matter?

So far then as the practice of Mr. Baxter may be thought worthy of imitation, the sheep farmer should grow, in sufficient quantity to carry his flock through the winter, oats for the straw and grain, corn for the fodder, hay and potatoes. Few, however, will follow his example in boiling the potatoes; and not many, we think, would feed potatoes, if they should make a fair comparative trial of them and of ruta bagas. This, of all the root crops, seems to us the one best adapted for feeding to sheep; and if any reader of this should wish to know how to feed, or how many might be needed for so many sheep, we would say to him, that we have found noon the best time of day, being the warmest or least likely to chill the sliced up bulbs, and that as he will probably feed them only about half the time or in the milder days of winter, and then in the place of the noon feed of oats, he may calculate that he should provide enough to feed about a bushel a day to every thirty sheep, or in that proportion, for about half of the winter.

Besides good feed, sheep should have good shelter, large and dry yards, good water, free access to salt, and never be confined except during storms.

MORE ANON.

THE SEASON AND PROSPECTS.

The winter that was so mild and open, and so inviting to all to go forth into the mild air and sunshine, did not expend all its energy during its allotted time. March was frequently vocal with winter winds, and April poured forth storms of snow, and sleet, and rain, and kept the earth drenched so that farm operations were delayed beyond their accustomed time. The early part of May was also wet and cold. Ploughing that was done, was badly done, and its effects will be felt through the whole season. Land that is ploughed while quite wet, falls from the mould-board in lumps that are quite likely to hold together through the entire summer.

At this time of writing, May 28, a great deal of land intended for corn and potatoes remains to be planted, having been entirely too wet to receive the seed until within a few days. Now, however, the surface of the soil has become quite dry and is somewhat hard.

Grass and the spring grains appear well, and so do the fruit trees. The apple and pear blossom is abundant, notwithstanding the profusion of last year.

Most trees and plants came through the winter in admirable condition. We have heard no complaint of destruction of apple trees by mice. Strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, currants and gooseberries are looking finely, and promise plentiful crops.

A little rain is now needed in this region, although the soil and subsoil is still quite moist.

VENTILATION.

The following article, in reference to ventilation, has been widely circulated in the newspapers of the day. It sets forth a theory which, though obviously fallacious, is nevertheless worthy of criticism, when we consider the high source from which it emanated:

"A NEW THEORY OF VENTILATION.—The French Academy of Sciences, at its last meeting, listened to a paper from M. Delbruck, which, if well founded, will upset a good many of our existing notions about ventilation. M. Delbruck has made some researches on the quality of air required for breathing during sleep. It strikes him as singular that, while all medical men are unanimous in prescribing several cubic metres of pure air for each person sleeping in a room as absolutely indispensable for health, all animals appear to shun the open air as much as possible in order to compose themselves to sleep. Thus, the lion and the tiger retire to some dark cavern where the air is confined; the dog goes to his kennel, and thrusts his snout under his belly; birds, to which

the open air would appear to be necessary, whether asleep or awake, retire to some private corner, and put their heads under their wings. Nay, what does the schoolboy do, when left in a dormitory aired with particular care? If he finds he cannot fall asleep, the first thing he does is to bury his head under the bed-clothes. Hence M. Delbruck concludes, that if, when awake, we exhale a quantity of carbonic acid, we must inhale a certain quantity of this gas during sleep, just as plants exhale by day the oxygen they absorb by night."

In reference to the facts here given to substantiate a truly novel theory, we would suggest that they are susceptible of quite a different interpretation. The lion and tiger have recourse to caverns for coolness; the dog thrust his nose under his body for warmth; the bird puts its head under its wing for a similar reason; and the boy buries his head under the bed-clothes because he is either cold, or, what is perhaps not unfrequently the case, *frightened.*

I know it is a popular prejudice, supported by high medical authority, that exposure to "night air" is perilous for ordinary persons. The grand error is made in concluding that it is *necessarily so under all circumstances.* I doubt if there is one individual among a thousand confirmed invalids who could not, even in the winter-time, speedily, safely and very advantageously acquire the ability to endure a perceptible draught of "night air;" and whether the brunt of it be received by the face or the back of the head, the latter being as little susceptible to the influence of a draught as the former, under an equal amount of exposure.

The evils resulting from breathing, night after night, an atmosphere becoming more and more vitiated as the morning approaches, probably equal, if they do not exceed, those resulting from the intemperate use of spirituous liquors. Indeed, it is questionable whether a craving for stimulants has not been occasionally created by this abominable yet prevalent custom of keeping the windows of a sleeping apartment either entirely closed or opened but a "crack." They should be widely opened every night throughout the year, unless the weather is intensely cold, or the wind unusually violent, or some other valid reason exists for mitigating a draught.

Were this practice universally adopted, a surprising reduction would be quickly manifested in the frequency of morning headache and nausea, and dyspepsia, chronic catarrh, croup, diphtheria, influenza, measles, scrofula, consumption, scarlet fever, smallpox, typhus fever, felon, whitlow, erysipelas and many other disorders, which are more often induced by an infected atmosphere, than any other cause.

In recommending a draught, I am not advocating a whirlwind or a hurricane, but merely such a current of air as will supply the lungs during each night with from eight to ten thousand installments of pure, fresh, free oxygen, in a quantity fully equal to any possible demand of the human system. Stagnant air cannot supply this want, neither can air that is in motion if it be not perceptibly so; nothing less than a draught, moderate, but decided, and continuing throughout the night, can meet in every respect the requirements of health.

Of the many and remarkable advantages of sleeping in the open air, or what may be regarded as the same thing, I can speak from thirteen years' experience. Commencing the practice rather abruptly in the winter of 1850, and without suffering any serious inconveniences from the initial trial, I became in a few weeks nearly as invulnerable to the assaults of a freezing cold blast as a salamander to fire. From that time to the present, I have not once suffered from any pulmonary affection, and, except in very rare instances, have been utterly exempt from any illness that could be traced to a night-draught exposure. In short, a practice which M. Delbruck may be thought to regard as unnecessary, unnatural, and consequently fraught with danger, I have rigidly observed for a series of years, as one of the most important of all the means that I have hitherto adopted for indefinitely promoting health, strength and development.

The following are a few of the many examples that might be cited to show how horrible may be the effects of a vitiated atmosphere: In the year 1756, during a rebellion in India, one hundred and forty-six persons, chiefly English, Dutch and Portuguese soldiers, were imprisoned by the natives in the Black Hole of Calcutta, which was nothing more nor less than an apartment eighteen feet square and about sixteen feet high, and furnished with two grated openings on one side for the admission of light and air. During a confinement of twelve hours, one hundred and twenty-three perished, and the remainder were subsequently attacked with "putrid fever," which proved fatal in most of the cases.

In the year 1797 or '98, during a storm at sea, seventy men, women and children were kept for a short time in the hold of a small vessel, the hatches of which had not only been "laid over," but, for better security, battened down." The death of the entire number was the result. In December, 1848, also during a storm, one hundred and fifty passengers were enclosed in the same hermetical manner, in the steerage cabin of the steamer "Londonderry," while on its passage from Liverpool to New York. Soon half the number perished by suffocation, and it is very probable that the rest would have speedily met with a similar fate, had it not been for the strength of one man, who succeeded in bursting open the door of the narrow companion-way, although the captain of the steamer had taken especial pains to prevent such an occurrence.

The following are a few examples to illustrate the importance of a thorough system of ventilation, in cases where little if any complaint had been made of inattention to this hygienic measure: There was once in Glasgow an assemblage of buildings attached to a factory, which were occupied by about five hundred persons—one family to each room. For a long period, an immense deal of sickness had pervaded the buildings, which the inmates seemed to regard as a mysterious dispensation of Providence, for they obstinately refused to adopt such sanitary expedients as had been repeatedly advised them. At length the proprietors of the establishment, despairing of ever making the inmates appreciate the importance of occasionally opening windows resolved to apply a system of ventilation which should be thorough, continual, and utterly beyond the control of those subjected to it. They accordingly connected each room, by means of tubes, with the

chimney of the factory furnace, and compelled every occupant, whether willing or unwilling, to be exposed daily and nightly to a draught of air. The result was, that sickness of every kind rapidly diminished, and one disease—typhus fever—which had frequently raged as an epidemic, became for eight years "scarcely known to the place."

In 1832, at Norwood School, in England, scrofula made its appearance among six hundred children, and destroyed a great number of them. The disorder having been attributed to an insufficiency and bad quality of food, a scientific investigation was made, and a decision given that the food was "most abundant and good"—that "defective ventilation, and consequent atmospheric impurity," was the cause of the sickness. A thorough system of ventilation was immediately applied, and scrofula rapidly disappeared, nor did it ever recur, though the number of pupils was gradually increased to eleven hundred.

In a hospital at Dublin, 2944 deaths took place in four years. A better system of ventilation having been resorted to, as a means of lessening the mortality, it was found that during the next four years the number of deaths was only 279.

The above facts are merely selected from a long array of similar character, which tend to show the paramount importance of breathing an uncorrupted atmosphere. It is certainly no exaggeration to say that were the public as particular as they should be, and easily might be, about the quality of that subtle fluid, which enters and departs from an average pair of human lungs about a thousand times in an hour, and nearly nine million times in a year, the bills of human mortality would be reduced one-third at least, and the average duration of human life be nearer seventy than forty.—G. B. WINDSHIP, *Park Street, in Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

SHEEP HUSBANDRY.

We are happy to learn that a new work upon *Sheep Husbandry* is soon to be published by J. B. LIPPINCOTT & CO., and D. D. T. MOORE, of Rochester, N. Y. No book for farmers is more needed. Indeed, so great has been the want that we have suggested to one or two persons to prepare such a work at once. It is to be prepared by the Hon. HENRY S. RANDALL, the author of the only work at present on Sheep Husbandry of much value. Mr. Randall has had large experience, which, combined with a life of critical observation in this particular direction, will enable him to present a great deal of valuable information on a highly important subject. We look for it with interest, as it will undoubtedly be as full and complete as his knowledge and industry can make it.

TO PREVENT THE ROTTING OF WOOD.—In order to prevent the rotting of wood whenever it comes in contact with the ground, such as posts and piles; a certain paint is now used which has the hardness of stone, resists dampness and is quite cheap. It is composed as follows: Fifty parts resin, forty parts finely powdered chalk, about three hundred parts of fine, hard sand, four parts of linseed oil, one part of red oxide of lead, and one part of sulphuric acid mixed together. The rosin, chalk, sand and oil are heated together, and the red lead and sulphuric acid added. They are then carefully mixed and the composition is applied while hot, and when cold and dry forms a varnish the hardness of stone. If the mixture is too thick, add more linseed oil. A smaller quantity than the above can be made by using the parts in a reduced proportion.

A HORSE PITCHFORK.

Among the labor-saving implements on the farm, the *Horse Pitchfork* is said to be one of great merit. We have never seen it in use, and cannot therefore, speak of its merits from a personal knowledge of it. The next best thing that we can do, however, is to give the testimony of our practical and excellent friends, the Editors of the

Country Gentleman, who "wouldn't flatter Neptune for his trident," but who speak of this fork in high terms of commendation. They say:—

"We have seen in operation no less than seven different horse hay-forks, some of which we had considered *good* ones, and which do operate well. But when we saw the fork exhibited at Rochester, by N. Palmer, Greenville, Greene Co., N. Y., all others were left clear in the shade. It is decidedly the most perfect implement, in the line of horse and hay-forks, that has ever been made. There is no chance for improvement in it; and one of the most commendable features in its manufacture is, the *price*. We have no interest, whatever, in the manufacture or sale of this kind of horse-forks, and we are not even acquainted with the proprietor of it. But we know it to be an implement that will never fail to give the best of satisfaction."

Numerous testimonials say,

"It exceeds our utmost expectation, it is convenient to handle—the best yet invented—can be worked by a boy of fifteen years of age—will pitch hay and loose grain, better, easier and quicker than any other horse fork—that it will save its cost in a single harvest, and in "catching" weather, in a single day. This fork is adapted to pitching from

the mow to the hay press and can also be used for stacking."

The proprietors claim that it will pitch off a load of hay ordinarily in five to six minutes. The price, we believe, is $12. Address PALMER & WACKERHAGEN, Greenville, Greene Co., N. Y.

For the New England Farmer.

OUT WEST.

Who can tell where "out West" is? When a boy, out West was limited to the State of New York; a few years later, Ohio and Indiana were embraced in out West; still later, Illinois, Michigan, Missouri, and in fact all the territory to the Rocky Mountains was termed out West. After the acquisition of California, and our Pacific possessions, out West was bounded by the Pacific ocean. Where it will eventually terminate, who can tell? But this is not the matter I proposed to canvass, but one that often provokes a smile when I hear "out West" alluded to, knowing it embraces thousands of miles of territory. When Central and Western New York were sparsely settled, many from the New England States emigrated there, and the few that left the section where I lived, bettered their circumstances very much. Several of them settled in the Mohawk or Genesee valleys previous to the digging of the Erie canal, and when the cities that now have grown to be so large, prosperous and important, were not dreamed of in the imagination of the most wise or most visionary. Several located in the region where Rochester now is. The construction of the canal and the growing up of the city caused an enormous rise in the value of landed estates, which made many rich. This, of course was soon known where the parties emigrated from, and caused many to wish to participate in such sudden success, as some of their friends had experienced. From that time to the present, we have paroxysms of the same kind growing out of the same causes. Some fortunate settler happens to locate near where some public improvement is eventually located, or city or village grows up, which makes him prosperous, aside from his legitimate business, and forthwith all who come to a knowledge of his success, are set in a flutter of excitement and unrest. Good homes, good business, good society, in fact, all of good that pertains to the surroundings of a New England home, are lightly esteemed, and in many cases sacrificed, for the *ignis fatuus* of wealth, that in almost all cases eludes their grasp.

Unless a man has not only capital sufficient to purchase his farm, get up his buildings and a general outfit for tools and stock, but a surplus, he stands but a small chance of making any better headway out West than in New England. I shall contend that without money to use, aside from ordinary farm purposes, he cannot do any better, pecuniarily, while his sacrifices of health, society, and various blessings of the old New England home, far outweigh the money success he might secure under the most favorable circumstances. My experience, it is true, has been quite limited, but sufficient to give me a chance to use my eyes in seeing, my ears in hearing, and my tongue in asking for information. In all cases I may instance, I shall aim at giving my impressions as they occur at the time.

I left Boston the latter part of February, 1862, and arrived at my destination, Benton county, Indiana, the first of March, to take charge of a farm of 1300 or 1400 acres, in joint partnership with the owners. This arrangement, of course, required an account of stock or inventory of the whole concern, which gave me a knowledge of prevailing values in that locality. When I left Boston, it was quite cold, and much ice and snow on the route by the Western railroad, especially from Springfield and on to Albany, so that we were detained at Springfield one day. Beyond Albany as far as Buffalo, some sections, especially in the region about Rome, (which was off of our route,) the snow was over the fences. Along the lake route but little snow, and after leaving Cleveland, no snow was seen.

I mention these circumstances, so that we may have some idea of the length of winter or the approach of spring in the section passed over. The frost was about out in Indiana when I arrived there, and when I left for home, the first of April, the grass was quite green in many places. In returning, I came through Lafayette and Indianapolis to Cincinnati, up through Central Ohio to Cleveland, thence home by outward route. South of Indianapolis, cattle were grazing in the fields, now and then a team ploughing, but not many. On the line of the road, for some distance from Cincinnati to Columbus, I saw some of the finest farms I saw on my journey. Many of them had the best of buildings, and everything about them betokened a prosperous state of things.

Soon after leaving Cincinnati, the road passes through the celebrated grape region of the State. The Germans, I believe, are the principal cultivators. Steep hills are terraced from the river bottoms to their very top, several hundred feet high, I should judge. Lime stone is used in building the face of the terraces, quarried in most cases from the spot where used. These vineyards certainly present a very beautiful appearance. All was life and activity with the vine cultivators. The women seemed to be as numerous, and toiled with as much vigor, as the men. I was told that many of these apparently poor Germans, were wealthy, so far as money goes. They certainly seemed to enjoy their mode of life, and there was but little evidence of an ambition to surround themselves with what we term the refinements of good society. Between Cleveland and Buffalo, occasionally, a little snow was seen. From thence to Rochester none; but from that place to Utica, snow was abundant; in some places four feet deep.

From what I saw, I came to the conclusion that farmers on all the route I traveled, with the exception of Southern Indiana and Ohio, would have to fodder their stock as late as those in the vicinity of Boston, while some sections of New York would be two or three weeks later with their spring work. With me, it is an important consideration, how long the wintering of stock continues, how early in the spring I can commence my farming operations, and how early in the fall the frost will compel me to close up for the season. Notwithstanding the frost was out of the ground the first of March, or soon after, in Indiana, occasional frosts and rain kept it so wet that a month later it was unfit for ploughing, or even passing over with a team. Prairie soil, when wet,

do anything with it, but make adobe or mortar. When you get your foot into it, a question arises, yes, several of them, as to whether you can get it out again or not, or whether you will leave your boot behind, or if both come out, whether it is possible to accomplish the same feat the next step you take. From all the information I could obtain, I should think extremes of wet and dry weather were more frequent than in this vicinity. Of course, greater uncertainity in obtaining crops often resulting in a total failure. This uncertainty of good crops is a serious matter with the new settler who has invested his all in getting to his farm, paying for it if able, stocking, &c. His very life, almost, depends upon a crop; if that fails, starvation stares him and his in the face. Many have been put to their wits' end to avoid it. Men of extensive landed possessions are often in a bad fix from this cause. Cattle, at such times, have to be driven long distances for food and water. I have known of instances of families getting their daily supply of water several miles from home.

The first week in November last I went out to Cincinnati, and returned by the same route I did in the spring, and found that all the way from Dunkirk, N. Y., through the portion of Pennsylvania touched by the road, and all the lake and central parts of Ohio, had greatly suffered by this want of timely rains. With the exception of corn, potatoes, apples and a few pumpkins, all the crops were harvested. Apples were abundant. In some orchards I judged several hundred barrels were put up, ready for market. In many others they were not gathered, and in some localities must have been frozen. The corn was shocked, and but a very little husked. I never saw, on the poorest fields of Massachusetts, such miserable, poor corn, as it appeared to be. The cause given was want of rain. This I think must have been the true cause, as the soil appeared to be good in most places. The meteorological observer of the Smithsonian Institute at Cincinnati, Ohio, tells us that since the 19th of July, the total rain-fall up to the 17th of November, a period of 121 days, was 3.77 inches. This was distributed as follows: Last twelve days of July, 0.02 in.; August, 1.36 in.; September, 1.20 in.; October, 0.78 in.; November 1st to 17th, 0.41 in. There can be no marvel at the failure of crops under such circumstances.

The heat is often very oppressive in the summer, and much more enervating than with us. This is the testimony of several I saw. A tempest on the prairies is often awfully terrifie. Those who have never witnessed it, cannot have much conception of its terrors. Occasionally a tornado passes over a considerable tract of country, sweeping everything before it. Not a vestige of long years of improvements remains to comfort the hapless one who happens to be in its wake. House, building, trees, all share a common fate. These are to be accounted for upon natural causes that will probably always exist. I do not wish to be considered as trying to make out a case by enumerating all the objectional features of the "out West" I am alluding to, but stating what I consider facts, well vouched for, and substantiated by credible witnesses and my own observation. In a subsequent article, I propose not only to allude to the drawbacks of "out West," but some of its advantages, so far as I am able.

May, 1863. O. K.

THE ANGORA, OR CASHMERE GOAT.

A correspondent of the Boston *Cultivator*, in giving an account of a visit to the farm of W. W. CHENERY, of Belmont, near Boston, makes the following statement:

In 1861, Mr. Chenery took in to keep for a gentleman in Boston, two importations of the Angora goat called also the Cashmere, imported from Constantinople, the former lot of 39, arriving in March of that year, and the latter of 41, in October, making a flock of 80 in all, about one-sixth of which were bucks. In the spring of 1862, the flock produced 16 kids. Over 20 have died, evidently of the consumption, owing, it is thought, to the change of the climate, though they have been well housed and cared for. Six were sold to go to Western New York during the past season, so that the flock was reduced in number, notwithstanding the addition noted. The remaining flock was lately sold to a man in New York, who has removed them thither with the exception of a few, which Mr. C. retains in order to test more satisfactorily their capacity to withstand the severity of the climate, also for crossing with other varieties of the goat family. The Angora variety produces but one kid at a birth, and the females are not good nurses. The Angoras which have just been removed, are of a superior quality as regards their fleeces. Several of them have a bad cough seemingly fixed upon them, indicating that their lungs are affected.

PURE SQUASHES.—A correspondent of the *Rural New-Yorker*, after alluding to the desirableness of keeping the Hubbard squash pure, and of the great difficulty of doing so, from the readiness with which bees and other insects effect the amalgamation of different kinds of this vegetable, recommends that the seeds from a number of apparrently pure squashes be preserved in separate packages, and each package numbered. In the spring plant a row of hills from each package, saving the larger part of each package of seeds for the next year. Place a stake to every row of hills plainly numbered to correspond with the package of seeds from which the row was planted. Now, if you have a crop of pure-blood squashes on either of these rows, you will know from which package of seeds to plant the ensuing year. In this way, tried seeds may be on hand from year to year.

SHALL FARMERS WASH THEIR SHEEP? Geo. Snyder says, emphatically, no, in the Rural New-Yorker. It is unhealthy for both man and sheep; frequently proving fatal to the latter. The trouble and expense is great, and the wool but little benefited.

CHAPPED HANDS.—The following is said to be a sure recipe for the cure of chapped hands: Dissolve three cents worth of clarified beeswax in three cents worth of pure sweet oil, by heating over a tolerable fire. Apply at night before retiring. If desirable, it can be scented.

ON THE FARM.

Concord, June 6, 1863.

GENTLEMEN:—It is now nearly twelve years since I embarked under the banner of the *New England Farmer*; and in all the six hundred and odd weeks of that period, not a paper has been issued for which I have not prepared the miscellaneous agricultural matter, and furnished the Editorials, in whole or in part. On two or three occasions I have been absent a part of two consecutive weeks; and frequently, for two or three days at a time, I have mingled with every class of our people. Fortunately, before my connection with the *Farmer* commenced, I had visited a majority of the States of the Union, travelling much on foot and leisurely observing whatever proved interesting to my tastes, so that I have had little desire to extend my rambles much beyond our New England States.

This long devotion to book and pen, together with the deplorable habit of *reading in the cars*, at length so affected my eyes that it is several years since I have read a book in course, and I find myself obliged to depend upon other eyes for most that I get from papers and books. Under these circumstances, I have concluded to leave the office for a few weeks, and remain upon the farm; but occasionally visiting the neighboring towns, or it may be to pass beyond the border of our own State, to learn how others "live and prosper" in the avocation which is the centre and support of all others.

Here, in the grateful shade of the trees of my own planting, and amid the fields once barren and repulsive, but now clothed with waving crops, or those just springing into new life and beauty, I shall be glad to receive our friends and discuss the interests which so intimately concern all, as we ramble or jaunt along. I shall be happy to receive calls, to interchange visits, and to learn through every pleasant channel, something more of our beautiful and ennnobling art. What I practice in my own fields, what I hear from others, and what I see, guided by their experience, I may preach through our columns.

It is delightful, once more, to throw off all Editorial technicality, and address you in the first person. There is a freedom and directness in this form of address which arrests the attention of the reader, and which would send many a holy precept to the heart of the sinner if it were more common in the pulpit. Whoever heard a lawyer address a jury in the plural form, "*We* believe, gentlemen of the jury, that the prisoner at the bar is guilty of the crime charged?" Under this form, his case, as the newsboys say, would be a "goner!" Throw away your pens, and books, and cares, gentlemen, for a day or two, and come to the banks of the "Concord and Assabet," where we will

> ——"taste of the fruits,
> Regale on the flowers,"

and fill the mind with such pleasant things as shall afford you delightful memories for years to come. Pope's "paternal acres," that he sang about in his youth, were nothing to these, laved by such charming streams, full of pike and other piscatorial gentry; so come and fish and eat, commune and sleep, and fill yourselves full of the green, glowing, beautiful country, and be the happier for it all the rest of your days!

I am truly yours, SIMON BROWN.

MESSRS. NOURSE, EATON & TOLMAN.

DEATH OF MR. TIMOTHY IDE, OF NORTH WRENTHAM.

From the Secretary of the *North Wrentham Farmers' Club*, we have received a touching tribute to the memory of one of its members, just deceased. He says that although Mr. Ide was more than *ninety* years of age, he had been an active member of the club during the whole five years of its existence, and had always given it "cheerful encouragement, sagacious counsel and the advantages of his mature wisdom." This is the first death of a member of the club, though it consists of more than forty members. The tribute of respect closes with the following lines:—

> "How blest is he that crowns, 'mid scenes like these,
> A youth of labor, with an age of ease;
> Onward he moves towards his latter end,
> Angels around befriending virtue's friend—
> Sinks to the grave with unperceived decay,
> While resignation calmly slopes the way,
> And all his prospects brightening to the last,—
> His heaven commences ere this life is passed."

For the New England Farmer.

"PUNCTUALITY."

"That men do not believe in punctuality," as far as they are themselves concerned, I do not pretend to doubt; and the opinion that "gentlemen ought to take a few lessons" in the noble virtue, I heartily endorse. But the question then arises, who shall give those lessons to the sterner sex? Not wives, nor mothers, nor sisters, after they have attained the full stature of independent manhood. Perhaps you ask, "why not?" For the very good reason that they will hardly receive a hint upon the want of promptness, without manifest signs of annoyance, and often of anger. With an occasional exception, only in childhood, when under the softening, refining influence of a kind mother's love; or when *smoothing* their way into the hallowed affections of a young, impulsive woman's heart, can they be easily influenced to turn from the perverted course of their human nature.

And why do I argue that woman should be punctual? Certainly, not because I do not know the value of woman's time, or would have her yield a right that would serve to lower or degrade her position one iota. No, no! but simply to make the *up-hill* work of her life easier.

I have not been a wife ten years in vain; I have not used my eyes and ears to no purpose, when

visiting among my many friends, and I think,—privately to be sure—that the fair Margie is a wife of but little time, or has a husband of better make than are most men.

The truth of the matter lies just here: the husband knows nothing of the thousand and one little things that fret a woman into her early grave. He expects his dinner at the right moment, and if it is ready and cold before he eats it, all very well. He can find no fault. Perhaps in a soft, easy voice,—"that beautiful thing in woman"—you remark, "The dinner was ready at the usual hour, but waiting has nearly spoiled it." Can he answer you back any other way than pleasantly, however cold the dinner may be, when his own conscience tells him that talking over that last bit of war news with a passing neighbor was the sole cause? He cannot blame you unless he be a creature unworthy the noble name of man. You may blame him, to be sure; and away down in your heart may be uneasy feelings of vexation clamoring for utterance; but, believe me, the "least said is soonest mended." Calm, even tones will often quell a harsh disturbance in a woman's mind, at keenly felt wrongs, even though they are but a mask to conceal the real feelings. Anger seldom speaks in sweet, gentle accents; and it would be well for us to pitch our voices low, and never rise above that point. Reproof will harshly wound, after the lover has entirely passed through his transformation, and "come out" the newly-fledged husband. He prizes his "pinnacle of sternness" too much to be unceremoniously pushed from it, by a frail woman, even though she be his *better* half.

I do not wish to be understood to advocate this to be all right, but it is just as it is; and could I put my younger sisters in the holy bonds of wedlock on their guard, could I teach them to train themselves to be more independent, could I save them one family jar, I should not have lived in vain or spent my time for naught. The only path that will lead to true independence, is that of patience and forbearance; trying in all things to do exactly right, as far as in us lies; and then, if blamed, we can better bear the censure with a closed mouth, feeling the easy pulsations of a quiet conscience.

I do sincerely think it right and well to invite a morning caller into the kitchen. If you make a practice of so doing you will soon acquire a self-assurance about your work that will astonish you. After a few trials the dough will not adhere to the moulding-board, but work as easily as though you were alone; the bosom of the "good man's shirt" will no longer be marked by the print of the starch-besmeared iron, but by your own self-control, be ironed so smoothly and look so glossy that your friend will speak of its perfectness; and, seeing she is no clog to the beautiful movement of the household machinery, the half hour will glide into an hour and a half, and you will then part from her with a beaming smile and a light heart, knowing your morning's work is done; and she will go home wishing she had the same easiness of manner you possess.

The power of self-control is one of great importance to a young wife, and if once learned will prove a blessing through life; therefore, I say, e[illegible] no one from your kitchen, neither hesit[illegible] one!' because you are too h[illegible] tain them; but strive not to let their presence interfere with your employments. The kitchen is, indeed, the home of the farmer's wife, and should be made pleasant to every one.

Now, Margie, will you not please soften down that expression of yours a little, and not call that man a "tyrant" who looks for more in his wife than he possesses in himself? I cannot think he is; but if so it be, methinks *tyrants* are *very plenty* in my circle of acquaintance, and I am afraid you will find them so in yours. SARAH.

For the New England Farmer.

ADULTERATED GUANO.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The Peruvian guano is so extensively used all over Great Britain and is in such demand, that it presents a great temptation to venders to adulterate the true article by mixing it with other substances. We doubt, however, whether this is much, if ever done in New England. The Peruvian government guano received here through the agent, Mr. Bartlett, of Boston, I believe is the genuine article. In England this adulteration must be common, as we gather from the following: "It is absurd to lay down rules as to the quantity of Peruvian guano to be applied to a given space; such rules have been promulgated with apparently great care; but we fear, in many cases, not taking into account that not two samples of guano are found to agree in their constituents. Color is no test, and even weight is not to be depended upon. The following is a simple test, and is worth the attention of purchasers: Burn 200 grains of guano in an open fire, in a common iron ladle; it must be frequently stirred, and after keeping it at a strong red heat for ten minutes, and allowing it to become cold, if the ashes weigh more than 72 grains, it is not genuine Peruvian guano."

Salem, Mass. J. M. I.

OBSCURE SOURCES OF DISEASE.—In another place the reader may find an article under this head, written by Dr. JAMES R. NICHOLS, of Boston, a gentleman distinguished for his skill as a Manufacturing and Analytical Chemist. The subject presented is one of interest to every farmer, as there are frequently sources of impurity about his premises that may greatly affect the health of his family, if not even destroy life. We know of some cases where the suffering has been very great, and life endangered, by some of the causes alluded to in the Doctor's interesting article. We commend its careful perusal to every reader, as by heeding its suggestions he may save years of suffering for himself or some member of his family.

A NEW WAY TO DESTROY STUMPS.—A correspondent of the *Rural Register*, writes that journal that Mr. John Barnes, of Balttimore, removed a troublesome stump from near his house in the following manner: "Last fall, with an inch auger, he bored a hole in the centre of the stump ten inches deep, and put into it about half a pound of oil of vitrol and corked the hole up tight. This [illegible] the whole stump, and the roots extending [illegible] all their ra[illegible]tions, were [illegible] that [illegible] easily e[illegible]

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURE.

MR. EDITOR:—Perhaps there is nothing in action or language that more unmistakably discloses to the discerning mind the corruptness of taste than our great diversity of employments. We would countenance a limited variety of occupations, providing each be subservient to the true one.

Poets have sung in flowing numbers the beauties of agriculture. The pen of genius has contributed its influence to the praise of husbandry, and history carries along and aloft the charms of farming!

Now, why does each succeeding generation more and more shun the plough and leave the labor of the field neglected and despised? Is it because the poet and orator lie, and history is blind? No! It is the lamentably mistaken sentiment of the age. Fashion and pride make wants that agriculture never bows to supply. Therefore it is left as a second, or third, or fourth calling, by which the worldling seeks to make up his mistaken blessedness.

Young reader! your *first* and life-long question is—or should be—how can I be happy? In the pursuit of what occupation shall I be the happiest? I answer, you will be happiest following *agriculture* as an occupation. The labor of the farmer is most conducive to a happy life, because it is best suited to the normal and natural condition of our organization. We are endowed with a triple nature, each dependent on the health and harmony of the others. The great end to which the energies of our life should be directed, is the cultivation and development of the hidden being, the inner man. To attain this glorious object, the body must be in a good, active condition. The labor of the field exercises the greatest number of muscles, and in such a conformity to the great design, the lungs swell copiously to inhale the pure vital air, and the stomach distends to receive the proper supply of aliment to renew expended strength, and balmy sleep comes to refresh and invigorate.

Thus, as the body invigorates by obeying nature's laws, the mind grasps for culture and acquires it in reading books of truth, in agricultural experiments and farm calculations; and as the mind improves so does the heart. The words of Shakspeare become a living reality in the *true* farmer's mind.

> "And this our life, exempt from public haunt,
> Finds tongues in trees, books in the running brooks,
> Sermons in stones, and good in everything."

The book student may acquire a marvellous and disproportionate development of the brain, but he does it at the expense of disease and premature death of the body, and often of the soul, for it is a sin to overtask the brain and leave the body and moral faculties to become effeminate by neglect and inaction.

The farmer, while obeying nature's dictates, in proportionally expanding the mind and invigorating the body, walks forth among beauties of colors and fragrance of flowers, surrounded by animated nature, singing God's goodness to his soul, to read the unwritten books of the universe, that the soul may be strengthened and lifted up by the hidden fires of nature. He sees design and the divine idea in everything, and from an overflowing heart of felicity, pours out depths of gratitude to Him who made us with few wants beyond the wants of the inner being, and for which He has produced more than enough. Nature points to immortality as plainly as the Bible, to him who loves her, is with her, and reads her.

To him who seeks happiness: let a farmer's sun warm and tan you; let the pure air of growing fields expand your lungs, and temperate exercise unite to give you a sound body and a clear head. To him who would be intelligent, and I may add learned: follow the courses of history and dwell over the lives of good men. Read logic and rhetoric, and freely use dictionaries and maps. For your spiritual good, admit the truths of nature and receive the spirit of God around you, follow righteous ordinances, and you will receive the approbation of conscience and the smile of Heaven.

For the New England Farmer.

AGRICULTURE IN SCHOOL.

The discussion which occupied a portion of your columns some time since, concerning the propriety and utility of introducing the study of agriculture into our common schools, has proved this, if nothing more: that it is a subject, like many others, upon which *much* can be said on both sides.

The substance of the arguments which have appeared, amounts to this: one party tries to convince his hearers that the study of agriculture in school would do no good, but much harm; the other, that it would do much good and no harm.

Now this is all very well so far as talk is concerned, but would it not be better to reduce the advanced theories and opinions to practice, and thus prove their soundness? In other words, let those who feel enough interest in the matter, begin *now* to introduce the study of agriculture into our schools. Let them procure suitable textbooks, and find scholars who are desirous of making the art a subject of study. We should then soon learn how many of our teachers are qualified to teach agriculture; whether the minds of the people are ready, or at all desirous of having it become a part of their children's studies; and ascertain the amount and kind of opposition which might be in the way of its becoming a permanent branch of study. Burnside might have sat and talked until doomsday about taking the heights of Fredericksburg, and listened to plausible arguments both for and against the undertaking, but he would never have known whether or not he was equal to the task, if he had not crossed the river and made the attempt. I believe it would be well to make a fair trial of the project under consideration, whatever the result might be; and, although it is very probable that the result would not be so disastrous as the engagement of our brave Burnside, yet it is my private opinion that the enterprise would be about as successful.

Among those who have expressed their views upon the subject, none have marked out any definite course to be pursued by the teacher or scholar, while endeavoring to impart and receive a practical knowledge of agriculture in school. Is the knowledge to be derived solely from books and the verbal instructions of the teacher, (providing he or she should happen to know anything about the study,) or is the art to be learned from books in connection with a suitable apparatus, and actual experiments? If the latter course is to

be pursued, a model farm, with all the necessary farming implements, cattle, &c., should surround every school-house. Here would be work for somebody! And the work would be much more difficult than otherwise, from the fact that very many of our school-houses are situated upon the most barren and dreary spots in the district. Not a tree, shrub, or flower is ever planted around its four brick or wooden walls; and indeed common sense is often shown in not planting them, for they would not grow in the barren soil. To create a model farm out of the materials which we so frequently find around our school-houses, would require a master hand; and in witnessing the process, the scholars might learn many a useful and important lesson. Those young persons who would become acquainted with the farmer's art, should study to acquire it both in doors and out—at school, if found to be practicable and profitable—but certainly on the farm, and under the instructions of a skilful farmer. It might be learned at school if we had suitable teachers, model farms, and above all, if the people at large felt sufficient interest in the project to *commence* and carry it on. But these obstacles, I fear, will not be overcome during the present generation.

If we had every facility for the study of agriculture in our district schools, I would not advise any scholar to neglect spelling, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, or grammar; but after he has acquired, or while he is acquiring a knowledge of these elementary studies, if he should desire to take up an elective or extra study, and has a decided taste for agriculture, let him pry into its mysteries, and store his mind with knowledge which will be useful to him in after life.

South Groton, 1863. S. L. WHITE.

For the New England Farmer.

THE VERMONT DOG LAW.

MR. EDITOR:—On page 71 of volume 15 of the *N. E. Farmer*, Monthly, I find the following:—"Daniel Needham, Esq., of Hartford, Secretary of the Vermont Agricultural Society, read his annual report, in which is the following: 1. The passage of a dog law must be regarded as a substantial advance in the legislation of our State. 2. The great damage to our sheep by the canine race can hardly be estimated. 3. Few sheep-raisers but that have suffered some, and many have suffered a good deal. 4. There is reason to believe that the dog law came as the legitimate result of our action at the Wool Growers' Convention. 5. That the number of dogs will be greatly lessened by the tax imposed by the new law, there can be no doubt."

Will Mr. Needham answer me the following questions, through the columns of the Monthly *Farmer*? 1. What advantage will it be to the State? 2. Is the dog the only animal that injures sheep? What does the bear do, only kill sheep, that he must be hunted? 3. It seems that the Wool Grower's dislike dogs, and want them killed, or their owners to pay them for their sheep, that the bears and other wild animals kill—is this what they want? The owner of the dog must pay a tax on his dog, or it must be killed; if the owner pays his tax and the dog has on a collar, then no one can hurt him if he kills sheep, any more than they could his master's ox or horse, if off the owner's land: and if the dogs are all killed, then the sheep-owners can turn their sheep off in the spring, and they will not be hurt by dogs. But they must remember that the mountains in this State are the home of the bear and other wild animals that like to eat sheep and lambs. The dog is set in the list at $100; will the listers take the dogs at that? If they will not, I ask, is the new law constitutional?

A MONTHLY READER.

Wallingford, Vt., 1863

OBSCURE SOURCES OF DISEASE.

BY JAMES R. NICHOLS, BOSTON.

There are many instances of disease brought to the notice of physicians which are exceedingly perplexing in their character, and the sources of which are very imperfectly understood. They belong to a class outside of, and distinct from, the usual forms of disease resulting from constitutional idiosyncrasies, or accidental causes, within the knowledge of the patient or medical attendant. The obscurity of their origin and persistency under treatment, render them peculiarly trying to the patient and the skill of those who have them in charge, and after the trial of the usual remedies without effect, the patients are sent into the country or to the sea-shore, as the case may be, with the expectation that a change of air or residence may prove beneficial.

We cannot, in a majority of cases, regard these affections as altogether imaginary, or as resulting from some casual derangement of the nervous system; they are instances of true disease, and should be studied with the view of bringing to light the hidden source from whence they originate. I am led to believe that a considerable number arise from some disturbance in the sanitary conditions of dwelling or their surroundings, and that however improbable this may seem from a superficial or even careful examination of suspected premises, a still more thorough and extended search will often result in the discovery of some agent or agents capable of producing disease.

The chemical and physical condition of water used for culinary purposes has much to do with health, and is, perhaps, the oftenest overlooked by the physician in searching for the cause of sickness. We must not suppose that water is only hurtful when impregnated with the salts of lead or other metals; there are different sources of contamination, which produce the most serious disturbance upon the system. Some of these are very obscure and difficult of detection. The senses of taste and smell are not to be relied upon in examinations, as it often happens that water entirely unfit for use is devoid of all physical appearances calculated to awaken suspicion. It is clear, inodorous, palatable, and there is no apparent source from whence impurity may arise.

A few instances which have come under my observation may serve to illustrate the view presented, and as suggestions to those who are in doubt as regards the cases of patients upon their hands.

During the past summer, the writer was consulted by a gentleman residing in Roxbury, respecting the water used in his family. It was taken into the dwelling through tin pipe from a well in the immediate vicinity, and appeared to be perfectly pure and healthful. Analysis disclosed no salts of lead or copper, as indeed none could be expected from the unusual precautions taken to

prevent contact of the water with these metals. Abundant evidence was however afforded that, through some avenue, organic matters in unusual quantities were finding access to the water. Careful examination of the premises disclosed the fact that an outhouse on the grounds of a neighbor was so situated as to act as a receptacle for house drainings, and from thence by subterranean passages the liquids flowed into the well. Some cases of illness, of long standing in the family, disappeared upon abandoning the use of the water.

A few months since a specimen of water was brought to me for chemical examination, by a gentleman of Charlestown, who stated that his wife was afflicted with protracted illness of a somewhat unusual character. It was found to be largely impregnated with potash and the salts resulting from the decomposition of animal and vegetable *debris*, and the opinion expressed that some connection existed between the well and the waste fluids of the dwelling. This seemed improbable, as all these were securely carried away in a brick cemented drain, and in a direction opposite the water supply. The use of the spade, however, revealed a break in the drain at a point favorable for an inflowing into the well, and hence the source of the contamination. Rapid convalescence followed on the part of the sick wife upon obtaining water from another source.

Analysis was recently made of water from a well in Middlesex County, which disclosed conditions quite similar to these. The owner was certain that no impurity could arise from sources suggested, but rigid and persistent investigation disclosed the fact, that the servant girl had long been in the habit of emptying the "slops" into a cavity by the kitchen door (formed by the displacement of several bricks in the pavement,) where they were readily absorbed. Although the well was quite remote, the intervening space was filled with coarse sand and rubble stones, and hence the unclean liquids found an easy passage to the water. This proved to be the cause of illness in the family.

It is unnecessary to present other instances of a similar character on record. These serve to bring to view some of the sources of impurities in water used for household purposes, and the obscure cause of serious diseases. The location of wells connected with dwellings is a matter which should receive attention at the hands of physicians.

It is well known that in the gradual decomposition of animal and vegetable substances, at or near the surface of the earth, under certain conditions, nitrogenous compounds are developed. The nitre earths found beneath old buildings result from these changes, although it is quite difficult to understand the precise nature of the chemical transformations which produce them. In the waters of a large number of wells in towns and cities, and also in the country, the nitrates are found at some seasons in considerable quantities. The salts form at the surface in warm weather, and being quite soluble, are carried with the percolating rain water into the well. In cities and large towns, where excrementitious matters accumulate rapidly around dwellings compacted together, it is difficult to locate wells remote from danger, and hence it might seem that suspicion should be confined to these localities. This, however, is not a safe conclusion. How often do we see, upon isolated farms in the country, the well located within, or upon, the margin of the barnyard, near huge manure heaps, reeking with ammoniacal and other gases, the prolific sources of soluble salts, which find access to the water and render it unfit as a beverage for man or beast. It may no doubt be a convenience to the farmer to have his water-supply so situated as to meet the wants of the occupants of his barn and his dwelling, but it is full of danger.

Whilst admitting that such may be the condition of the water of many wells, doubts may arise with some, whether substances not decidedly poisonous, and received in such quantities, can, after all, be productive of much harm, or the real source of illness. To the great majority of people they are certainly harmless, but it must be admitted that there is a class, and one or more are found in almost every family, whose peculiar sensitive organization does not admit of the presence of any extraneous agent in food or drink, or in what they inhale. The functions of life and health are disturbed by the slightest deviation from the usual or normal condition of things around them. It is manifestly of importance that physicians should recognize these peculiarities in individuals. It is unsafe, in making a diagnosis of disease, or seeking for causes, to overlook or forget them.

We are, indeed, incapable of understanding how this can be. It seems incredible that the thousandth part of a grain of one of the salts of lead, dissolved in water and taken daily, will disturb the system of any one; and yet such is the case. We can see no reason why a very little nitrate of potassa, or soda, or lime, taken in the same way, should produce any effects; still stranger is it that the infinitessimal amount of dust disloged from painted wall-papers, received into the lungs, should make inroads upon health.

Several instances of this latter result have recently come to my knowledge. In two families of the highest respectability in this city, illness of an unusual and protracted character existed, and at the suggestion of the physician, portions of the green wall-paper of the dwellings were submitted to me for analysis. The pigments were found to consist mainly of arseniate of copper, and upon the removal of the papers the illness disappeared. In experimenting with apparently the most suitable apparatus, and employing delicate chemical tests, in rooms the walls of which were covered with these arsenical papers, no evidence of the presence of the poison in the atmosphere has been afforded; and this corresponds with the results of all similar experiments made in this country and in Europe, so far as my knowledge extends. We must conclude that agents not recognizable by chemical tests are capable of disturbing vital processes. The evidence is very clear that in instances of illness confined to one or two members of a household, the cause may be due to some accidental disturbance with which all are equally brought in contact, but which has not the power of injuriously influencing but a part. It is also clear that these sources of disease are of such a character as easily to escape detection, and therefore any facts or experience which may serve as guides to their discovery, are worthy of record.—*Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.*

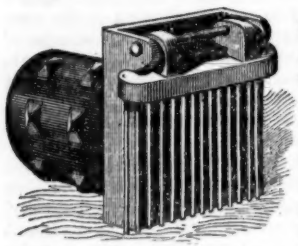
THE peach crop in New Jersey is uncommonly promising.

AN UNDERDRAIN OUTLET AND TRAP.

In the progress of farming, few things have had more happy results than the drainage of wet lands. The operation has been found *profitable* in several ways: one of which is to make the land greatly more productive with a given amount of labor; and another, to enable the farmer to cultivate five or six acres with as much ease—and vastly more comfort—as he did three or four acres before it was drained.

Something remains yet to be learned, however, in regard to the most economical depth and distances of drains, and as to the best manner of constructing them. By longer experience in their use, and by more careful observation of their effects upon the soil, and the action of running water in disturbing them, we are gradually learning lessons that enable us to make them more effective and at the same time, *less costly*.

One of the difficulties with which we have had to contend, is the obstruction of the outlet. This is sometimes done by the water flowing back during high stages of water when the drain empties into low grounds, by a collection of slimy matter, or by the entrance of frogs or mice, if the drain is dry a portion of the time.



To obviate these difficulties one of our correspondents, E. J. CONNABLE, Esq., of Jackson, Mich., has devised an *Outlet and Trap*, which, it seems to us, is an admirable contrivance, and one which will effectually prevent all obstructions. We are happy to present the above illustration of his design, as we believe our friends who are interested in draining will be glad to find so cheap and easy a remedy for the obstruction at the outlet of their drains. Mr. Connable evidently means to have the work done in the most thorough manner, judging from the description which he gives below. Where stones are plenty, there can be no objection to using them of the size which he describes, but one of much less weight and size must be sufficient, we think, to answer all the desired purposes. We mention this merely to do away the impression that the use of this new device may be too expensive for common use. Mr. C. says:

MR. EDITOR:—According to promise, I herewith send you a *Cast Iron Underdrain Outlet with Trap*. With this outlet, no animal as large as a lizzard can enter the drain, and the trap, or grating, is so constructed and hung that it cannot become choked by slime or other obstructions. It allows the passage of a small quantity of water without opening the trap at all, while a larger quantity opens it gradually, allowing the unobstructed passage of a stream the full size of the outlet, when necessary. It can never be left open by accident, as it always closes by its own weight, except when forced open by the water.

Several years' use of it has shown that it never gets out of order, and no action of flood or frost prevents its successful operation. Its entire cost, after the pattern is made, is only about one dollar. My mode of securing the outlet is this: Take a solid stone, say 4 feet long, 2½ feet wide and 15 or 18 inches thick; place it on the edge at the lower end, and across the line of the drain, leaning it somewhat against the bank, "up stream;" first making a hole through it near the bottom, large enough to receive a tile in the back side, and then secure this outlet in the front side by pouring melted roll brimstone around it. The small projections on the outside of the tube are to hold it securely in the stone, and the brimstone is as hard and durable as the stone and iron. By having one solid stone, there is no mason work to become displaced, and no action of the frost can disarrange it. When a stone cannot be conveniently obtained, a block of wood of similar dimensions will answer about as well, so long as it remains sound.

I have had a number of these outlets in operation for several years, secured in blocks of both wood and stone, and they have thus far proved entirely satisfactory. In a future communication I may give some of the results of my efforts at draining. E. J. CONNABLE.

Jackson, Mich., 1863.

SALT FOR PLUM TREES.

Cultivators of the plum recommend the use of salt as one of the most efficient articles that can be applied to the trees. In its natural state, they say, the plum is found to be much more vigorous and flourishing when in the vicinity of salt water, than when occupying an inland position. The *beach plum*, so called, from which some of our most excellent varieties are derived, is a native of the sea-shore, where its roots are periodically submerged in sea-water, and where it manifests a degree of vigor and productiveness which it rarely exhibits when transplanted, though favored with the best culture it is possible to give it. But where salt is included among the ingredients of the compost, it soon reassumes its normal health and vigor, and is rarely injured to any extent by disease. A few quarts sprinkled in the spring over the roots of bearing trees, is usually found to be of decided service. Perhaps a better way would be, always to make salt one of the ingredients of the compost with which the trees are to be dressed.

IN England, some seven degrees further north than we are, reckoning at Greenwich, they are having their society exhibitions of flowers grown in the open air. Temperature does not accord with latitude—but the men of science do not yet explain why, save so far as the influence of the ocean goes.

THE HORSE WITH A "COLD."

When we see how horses are used in a pleasant day in a season of good sleighing, or on any one of the "Holidays," in the streets of a city, or in its neighborhood, we are surprised that the stable-keeper is ever able to say, with truth, that he has a single sound horse in his stalls!

A horse, even one with a mild disposition, one whose natural gait would not exceed five or six miles an hour, may soon be taught to start at once into a ten or twelve-miles gait, and continue it with a little urging until his breath is nearly exhausted, and his sides are reeking with perspiration. In this condition, the thoughtless and cruel driver often leaves him exposed to cold blasts, or permits him to drink freely of cold water. No wonder that the horse takes cold. Some care and a proper humanity would ordinarily prevent this; but like human beings, the horse sometimes takes cold, when it cannot be traced to any neglect.

MAYHEW, in his excellent work on the Horse, from which we copy the engraving accompanying this article, says, "a mild cold, with care, is readily alleviated. A few mashes, a little green food, an extra rug and a day or two of rest, commonly end the business. When the attack is more severe, the horse is dull; the coat is rough; the body is of unequal temperatures, hot in parts, in places icy cold. The membrane of the nose at first is dry and pale, or leaden colored; the facial sinuses are clogged; the head aches; the appetite has fled; often tears trickle from the eyes, simple ophthalmy being no rare accompaniment to a severe cold; till at length a copious defluxion falls from the nostrils without immediately improving the general appearance of the animal."

In such a case all bleeding should be avoided; the invalid should be comfortably housed; should have an ample bed, and the body should be plentifully clothed. If the head and breath are hot, take a thick bag, put four or five quarts of sawdust into it, and pour upon it a bucket of boiling water; place the animal's head in the bag, and tie it over the neck. Renew the water every twenty minutes. The bag must be sufficiently long to prevent the horse's nose from coming near the sawdust. If the bag seems too heavy, let it rest upon a chair or bench. This is a cheap and simple remedy, and is sometimes quite efficacious. After this, the horse needs care similar to that given a person after taking a sweat.

Where colds continue for a long time, and will not yield to mild remedies, the advice of a skilful person should be obtained, as such colds lead to the most fatal results, ending sometimes in that dangerous and loathsome disease, glanders.

For the New England Farmer.

CULTURE AND USES OF THE KOHL RABI.

Seeing that "O. K." of Rochester, in the February number of this journal, is inclined to regard this plant as *an important addition* to our farm crops, and that he asks for the experience of those who have raised and used it, and knowing that it has been grown by few in this country, save those who received parcels of seed from the Patent Office, it has seemed quite probable that information derived from farmers in Great Britain, where it is grown much more extensively than in this country, might be both acceptable and useful to such as may have some intention of making a trial of it. Accordingly we quote the following from a book, not likely to be in the possession of many farmers, viz., *The Farmer's and Planter's Encyclopædia.* "This curious variety of cabbage, is a native of Germany, where it is much cultivated, and whence it was first introduced into England by Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt. The stem is swollen like a tuber, (turnip,) and when divested of the leaves, may readily be mistaken for one. The produce is nearly the same as that of Swedish turnips, and the soil that suits the one is equally good for the other. It may either be sown in drills, or raised in beds, and transplanted like cabbages, in which case the beds require to be made and sown the preceding autumn. Two pounds of the seed will produce a sufficiency of plants for one acre of ground. Hares, (probably rabbits also,) are so fond of it, that, on farms where these animals abound, the culture of this plant is found to be impracticable."

Under the heading of cabbage, in the *Encyclopædia*, it is stated that, while one pound or 7000 grains of early York, and also of Drumhead cabbage yields, on analysis, 430 grains of nutritive matter, the same weight of kohl rabi furnishes 400 grains in a pound of the bulb, and 252 grains in a pound of the leaves or tops. We may infer from this, and from the fact that this plant is a hybrid production between cabbage and turnip, that kohl rabi is considerably more nutritious than turnips, and nearly as much so as cabbage, whose nutritiousness may be seen in the vigorous frames of immigrants from Germany, the Germans being proverbially fond of it.

GLANDERS.—The following paragraph occurs in Dr. Dadd's new book on the Horse:

Whoever undertakes to attempt the cure of this awful malady must remember that he is running a great risk of losing his own life, for the absorption of the least particle of the virus will cause death in one of the most horrible of all forms; and many cases are on record going to show that whole families have been destroyed by absorbing the glandered virus.

PATIENCE IN MILKING.—A writer says that a cow was cured of holding up her milk by patiently milking until she ceased to hold it, and by continuing the practice, she has become an easy, regular, and good cow.

ON THE FARM.

GENTLEMEN:—On Saturday, June 6, I had occasion to lay a pipe drain, under where I wished to build a farm road to cross from one hill-side to another, over a "run." I took this opportunity, because the ground was quite dry. This led me to look at my *Journal* for two or three years past where I find the following records:

"*June* 8, 1860.—A little rain in the morning, and much in the evening. Heavy clouds from the south-west, and thunder."

"*June* 5, 1861.—Fine growing weather, but rather cool for corn. The 6th was cool and cloudy. Rain began to fall about 11 A. M., and *poured* all the remainder of the day. A cold north-east storm. The 7th was cloudy and cool, wind north-east and a fine rain still drizzling. Fire necessary in the furnace to keep the house comfortable."

"*June* 8, 1862.—A rainy day. We must have now had seven or eight inches of rain fall within a week."

"*June* 7, 1863.—Early this morning we had heavy showers. *Monday, 8th*, wind north-east, and stormy all day. *Tuesday, 9th*.—Still cloudy. Upon digging, I find the ground moist down to where it was moist before the rain."

In 1858, the days corresponding with those which I have quoted, were dry and hot. On the 10th, a strong west wind prevailed all day, and on the 13th, the rain fell in such quantity that my cistern, holding a hundred barrels, was filled before 9 P. M.

In 1859, June 6, a "little cold and wet for young vegetables." This was succeeded by very hot weather until the 18th, when a great quantity of rain fell. From these records it appears that the weather from the 5th to the 15th of June, is very much the same from year to year, notwithstanding the frequent expression that the "weather is awful cold—nothing will grow in this east wind and drizzling rain."

"God tempers the wind to the shorn lamb," and so he does to the wants of the young and tender plants. He knows best when the vast ocean shall send in to us its superabundant moisture on the wings of the "east wind," to strengthen and refresh the plants around which so many of our hopes are clustered.

DISSOLVING BONES.—In running over the pages of my Journal, I found the following under date of June 7, 1862: "Packed a barrel of bones in ashes, to see if I can dissolve them for a fertilizer." I had seen it stated, as from JAMES S. GRENNELL, Esq., then Secretary of the Franklin County Agricultural Society, that if bones were packed in wood ashes, and the layers of bones and ashes were wet, as the packing was carried on, that the bones would become so soft as to be easily pulverized by the fingers. Accordingly, on the 7th of June, 1862, now a little more than a year ago, I carefully packed a barrel with bones and good wood ashes. During the last days of May I went to it, and found the ashes almost as white as snow, and could find no bones by plunging my fingers into it. About one-third of the barrel was in this condition, and of the remainder the bones seemed to be unaffected by the process.

In packing, I did not make the ashes quite wet, but merely moistened them. Was this sufficient? Or did the mass require some atmospheric influences to perfect the desired result? I shall try again.

SEED SOWERS AND WEEDERS.—The labor of sowing small seeds by hand, from those of the turnip to the beet, is slow, tedious and expensive, and it is one reason, I think, why so many farmers decline to raise roots for their stock. Many seed-sowers have been devised, but all of them, until recently, depending upon the revolutions of a brush in the hopper to push the seed through in proper quantity. This requires gearing, additional cost, and makes the machine more liable to get out of order. In sowers constructed in this manner, it is frequently vexatious to change the slides to adapt them to the seed to be sowed. The wood work has swollen, or dirt or chaff from among the seed has got in, and obstructs the groove.

I have just now completed my sowing of small seeds, and have done the work with one of Mr. S. E. HARRINGTON'S Seed Sowers, of Greenfield, this State. The method of discharging the seed in this sower is entirely new. It has no brush. Screws are inserted into the spokes of the wheel, and as the wheel revolves, these screws strike a small iron rod six or eight inches in length, which makes a similar rod in the hopper play back and forth directly over the hole through which the seeds pass out. The rod is moveable perpendicularly, and can easily be adjusted to fit the size of the seed to be sown. Instead of zinc or tin slides with holes to fit the seed, on the bottom of the hopper is a brass disk about two inches in diameter. This is fastened by a pin in the centre, while holes of various sizes are made near the outer edge, and numbered up to seven. In changing for different sized seeds, all that is necessary is to turn this brass circular piece to the right hole, and alter the iron rod in the hopper. It may be done in two minutes without trouble. I have used several seed-sowers, but nothing that compares with this in ease and efficiency. Some of the crops sowed with it have come up, and they prove the *certainty* with which it does its work. I have sowed corn and beans of different sizes, all of which have come finely. I cannot see why it should not drop corn with sufficient accuracy in field planting, by reducing the number of screws

in the spokes of the wheel. Mr. HARRINGTON has performed an excellent work for the farmer and gardener in devising and constructing this beautiful little machine. After a more thorough trial, I will speak of it as a *weeder*.

CATERPILLARS. — Their name is legion, this year. They ought to be exterminated. When suffered to remain, they not only destroy the crop of fruit for the present year, but also the growth of the tree, and probably injure it for the future. It is no credit to any farmer to have them seen remaining upon his trees. I have practiced destroying them with a pole and brush, but upon the suggestion of Mr. GEORGE M. BARRETT, a gentleman who has a large amount of orcharding, I have added strong soap suds, and find the work greatly facilitated by the use of it. Wherever it touches them, it kills. If the brush is wet with the suds and thrust into the nest, those that fall to the ground soon die if they were touched with the suds. It is is not too late to take away the ugly nests and full-grown caterpillars, even now.

Truly yours, SIMON BROWN.

MESSRS. NOURSE, EATON & TOLMAN.

RAIN.

The world is awake and gladdened by the refreshing rain. It began to fall on the 6th, and continued coming gently for several days, washing the foliage and bringing new life and vigor to the dusty and wilting plants. This will greatly help the grass crop, for a slight drought in early June has a sensible effect upon it.

The winter rye, as well as spring rye and barley now appear well, and promise an abundant crop. In some fields, on dry ground, the corn planted had not started in the least before the rain, but the plentiful moisture, warmed by the hot sun that succeeded soon brought it into activity.

The blessed rain! It came with varying winds, almost as gently as the approach of evening, but sometimes in a shower, that made,

——"when God sent down His blessing
From the cloud,
The old roof sing aloud."

It was not one of those midsummer rains that come attended with thunder and lightning, when black clouds roll in from the West and the winds set all loose blinds and doors in motion. Such a shower our favorite blind poet, HOYT, admirably describes in the following verse—

"Now descends the brimming fountain!
Window, door and eaves are dripping;
O'er the pasture, up the mountain,
Scampering cattle soon outstripping—
Onward yet—.
All the landscape drowning wet!"

THE introduction of the new silk moth into Europe bids fair to be of great importance. It is reported that the almost incredible quantity of one hundred millions of trees are now planted in France for the sustenance of the caterpillar.

AVERAGE OF CROPS.

One of our exact and enterprising farmers, in Middlesex County, has sent us the following table, showing the average amount of crop which he gets from his land, per acre, together with the cost of cultivation, value per bushel, money amount per acre, and balance after deducting cost of cultivation, with some remarks upon them. We wish he had allowed us to present his name with his statement.

Table Showing Average Yield, Cost and Value per Acre of Different Crops.

Kinds of crop. 1 acre each.	Yield. No. bushels.	Cost of Cultivation.	Value per Bushel.	Money. Amount per acre.	Balance after deducting cost of cultivation.	Remarks.
Carrots,	800	$40 00	31 cts.	$248 00	$208 00	Good crop.
Parsnips,	700	40 00	40	280 00	240 00	" "
Beets,	800	35 00	35	280 00	245 00	Average.
Rutabaga,	800	25 00	25	200 00	175 00	"
Mangel wurtzel,	1000	25 00	17	170 00	145 00	Fair yield.
Flat Turnip,	600	15 00	30	180 00	165 00	Not an average.
Onions,	500	25 00	60	300 00	275 00	Good crop.
Potatoes,	100	11 00	90	90 00	79 00	Half crop.
Cabbage,	4000 heads	28 00	6 ₱ hd	200 00	172 00	Full an average.
Cauliflower,	3000 heads	30 00	8 "	240 00	210 00	Light crop.
Squash,	10 tons	25 00	20 00 ₱ ton	200 00	175 00	Good.
Cucumber,	300 bushels	30 00	65 ₱ bu.	195 00	165 00	More than average.
Corn,	80 "	13 00	1 00	92 00	79 00	
"			12 00 fodder			
Barley,	30 "	8 00	1 00 straw	40 00	32 00	Good.
"			10 00 straw			
Oats,	25 "	7 00	60	24 00	17 00	Middling.
"			9 00 straw			
Rye,	18 "	6 00	1 00	28 00	22 00	Middling.
"			1 00 straw			
Hay,	2 tons	4 50	20 00 ₱ ton	40 00	35 50	More than average.
Apples,	300 bushels	10 00	60 ₱ bu.	180 00	170 00	Small and old trees.
Peaches,	270 "	20 00	75 "	206 00	186 00	" "

For the New England Farmer.

WINTER FEEDING OF SHEEP,

AND SUMMER PREPARATION FOR IT.

In a recent communication from "More Anon," on the above-named subject, referring to a communication of mine, in March last, and to the relative value of the different kinds of grain and roots for sheep, the principal thing to which I wish to refer at this time, is the circumstance of his feeding his sheep on corn plentifully, and then finding the lambs to come in a weak and bad condition. It occurred to my mind, when reading his statement, that probably he fed the corn without being ground; as I have heard that corn fed whole to sheep would have a bad effect upon the lambs.

The communication to which he refers makes me to say "110 bushels," when it should have been 110 sheep fed to one foddering of oat straw, one of unthrashed oats, one of corn fodder, and two

bushels of potatoes per day. (A mistake of mine or of the printer.)

The oat straw was harvested green enough to make it good, which is a very important fact. No hay was given to them while fed as above.

My principal reason for feeding potatoes is, that I had rather raise 500 bushels of "Californias" than the same amount of bagas, because I can raise them without manure, by planting on mowing land, ploughed up when it needs it. In this way I get about 150 bushels per acre. They grow so large that they are dug and picked up rapidly. My man and boy ten years old, dig and put into the cellar fifty bushels per day. And I think a bushel of potatoes contains much more nutriment than a bushel of rutabagas.

I am very much interested in the "Retrospective Notes," and hope they will be continued.

W. D. BAXTER.

North Thetford, Vt., June, 1863.

For the New England Farmer.

HARVESTING OUR CROPS.

An Essay read before the *Concord Farmers' Club*, by J. B. FARMER, on Harvesting and storing Grain, Hay, and the Root crops, including Potatoes.

Of the grains, Indian corn stands at the head in Middlesex county. In this locality, as a general rule, the best method of harvesting corn, is to cut the stalks when the tassel gets seared, as our fathers practiced; but circumstances sometimes require a different mode of harvesting. I well remember that in 1836 or 37, I had a field of corn that was backward; the season was cold, and there was every sign of a frost. I concluded to cut it up at the roots and stack it, and three of us set about it, but the day was too short to get the whole field done. We left nearly an acre, and the result was, that I had over one hundred bushels of good, sweet corn on that part of the field where we cut and stacked it, but on the part of the field that we had not time to cut, there was not one ear that was fit to grind. We had a severe frost that night, as I anticipated, and it destroyed all that was left standing.

Again, we may wish to sow a field with winter grain, and if we cut the corn up at the roots and take it off of the field, it gives us a chance to get the grain in earlier. We too often sow winter grain so late, that it is injured by the winter frosts. The difference in labor of harvesting, and the value of the fodder is but trifling, therefore we may be governed by circumstances.

I have a few words to say in relation to sorting corn when harvesting. Some people think it is almost wicked, or at least wasteful, to put a large ear into the hog corn, even if it is damp, or green. This is a mistaken idea; the probabilty is, that the large, damp ear, will injure as much more, reducing it one-half in value, and being worth but half price itself. It is a self-evident fact, that the owner would have been as well off if he had thrown his big, damp ear away. Good economy requires us, in harvesting corn, to select all damp ears, and keep them by themselves, and use them first, or spread thin and stir often. In regard to small, sound ears, they do no injury, but the bin is improved in looks by taking them out. Of the wheat, rye, oats and barley crops I have only to say that, in my opinion, they are often left standing in the field too long for the benefit of the owner. There are three objections against it—the first is, the grain does not yield so much flour per bushel, and it is not of so good quality, when suffered to stand uncut until it is perfectly ripe, as it does, when cut in a hard, pulpy state. The second objection is, the grain shells too much in harvesting, sometimes enough to pay for cutting, and the best of the grain is most likely to scatter, thereby diminishing the value of what is saved. The third and last objection I shall make, is, that the straw is not worth as much for fodder, or for bedding.

The best method that I have tried, is to cut the grain when in a hardening but pulpy state, bind the second day, put from ten to twelve sheaves in a shock, without any cap sheaves, but cover the shock with common hay caps, and in a few days of fair weather, it will be in good order for carting; the hay cap prevents the heads from drying too much, so as to shell out, whilst the straw is curing, or under the process or carting.

Next in order, as the subject stands, is our hay crop, which may well be considered the crop, (in an agricultural point,) for this locality. I cannot point out the *exact* time of cutting the grass, or performing some other parts of the operation, as circumstances have so much to do with it, that there cannot be any one prescribed rule applicable to all cases. I will confine my remarks, to drying or making the hay. In this process, I think we too often fail; frequently we see on opening a mow of hay in the winter or spring, as unmistakable signs that the hay was got in too damp, and looking more like a fire-fanged pile of horse manure, than it does like a mow of good, sweet hay; in my opinion, the loss on the one is as great as it is on the other, and cannot be less than one-half their value. If salt is used in large quantities, enough to preserve green hay, and cattle are kept on it constantly, I see not why it is not as injurious to the beast, as over-salted meat is for man, of which we have abundant proofs in long sea voyages. Salt may be used in large quantities on a small proportion of our hay, but not on all. Fire-fanged hay is worth about as much for fodder, (where a man uses a great deal of grain,) as white pine shavings, and but little more. It is better than nothing to distend the entrails, whilst the grain supports life, therefore the value of musty hay is somewhat in accordance with the heat you get on it. If hay is intended for the market, but got in green or damp enough to must, or mould, there will be far more shrinkage in weight than there would have been if the hay had been well cured, beside the less price per hundred that will be obtained for it in market.

Of the root crops, there is greater diversity of opinion in regard to harvesting potatoes than there is in any other root. Some think potatoes are improved by letting them remain in the ground as long as it is safe, on account of the frost, whilst others dig as early as August or September. I certainly can see no good that the tubers can receive from the ground after the vines are dead, but I fancy there is evil in letting them remain in the ground to receive the fall rains. Too much rain makes them boil clammy; beside, there is more comfort in digging in warm weather than in cold. August may be a little too early for digging, though I have known Chenango potatoes to be dug as early as that, and put in the cellar, and they certainly kept, and were as good for eating

as any potatoes I ever saw. We also find a difference of opinion in regard to drying them. Some think they keep better for drying, or almost haying them. My own belief is, if the vines are not diseased in the least, you may dig and take into the cellar as fast as you please, and the potatoes will be the better for it, if the operation is performed in good, clear weather; but if the vines are diseased, I know of no way to prevent their rotting more or less, and in that case believe drying and spreading them to be as good a preventive as any.

In regard to other roots, I am not much acquainted with them, except the turnip, beet, carrot and parsnip, all of which are injured by hard frosts, (except the parsnip,) in their eating, and keeping properties. It is also an injury to them to let the tops remain on long, after being pulled; it causes them to wilt. For culinary purposes, all these roots keep better for trimming close, particularly cutting off the tap root of the turnip, and packing all of them in dry sand.

I have a few remarks to make on the harvesting of beans, though not mentioned in the subject assigned me; as there is so little attention paid to the gathering of that crop, I trust the Club will pardon me if I trespass a little on its time. I have raised many bushels of beans for the seed-dealers, and had to deliver them free from mildew and all other imperfections, which I found to be no small job under the ordinary method of harvesting them. Although I had often heard the female department complain of the great labor in preparing our weekly dish of beans, I paid but little attention to this complaint until I had to perform a like operation myself. At last a remedy came, and I now hear no complaint about mildewed beans; they say it is no work at all to pick over my beans to what it was those purchased the other day. My method now in harvesting beans is as follows: as soon as the pods have turned yellow, and before they are sear, I pull and stack them. The operation is performed by taking either birch, spruce, or pine poles, cutting off the limbs about six inches from the body, making a hole in the ground with an iron bar, and setting the pole strong and erect. I then begin by taking a small handful of beans and put them on one of the lower branches of the pole, after which I lay them alternately around the pole, always keeping the roots inward, proceeding in this way to the top of the pole. I then tie a string around the roots of the last handful of beans encircling the pole, and the work is done, until they are dry, after which I pull up the pole with the beans on, and cart them home, or they can stand, almost any length of time, without injury. The reason I assign for pulling beans before the pods are sear, is, that beans never mildew whilst the pods are in a greenish state, but become so by lying on the ground after the beans are ripe. Some may object to pulling so early, and say they will shrink too much. In answer to that objection, my theory is, that we gain more by sowing, in a perfect state, all beans that are not fully matured, and even if they are not half grown, they will cure and be perfectly white and merchantable.

There is one other point I will mention, which is, in pulling the beans, be sure and get all the dirt off of the roots; it will save some one more time than it takes to perform the operation. By observing the above rules, we get rid of in-door complaints, and fifty cents more per bushel for the beans we sell.

For the New England Farmer.

METEOROLOGICAL RECORD FOR APRIL, 1863.

These observations are taken for and under the direction of the Smithsonian Institution.

The average temperature of April was 45°; average midday temperature 52°. The corresponding figures for April, 1862, were 40° and 50°. Warmest day, the 28th, averaging 63°; coldest day, the first, averaging 26°. Highest temperature 78°; lowest do. 16°.

Average height of mercury in the barometer 29.23 inches; do. for April, 1862, 29.39 inches. Highest daily average 29.67 inches on the 21st; lowest do. 28.65 inches on the 2d. Range of mercury from 28.49 inches to 29.71 inches.

Rain fell on seven days; snow on two days. Amount of rain and melted snow 1.92 inches; of snow 2.00 inches. Corresponding figures for April, 1862, rains 1.15 inches—no snow. There were two entirely clear days; on three days the sky was entirely overcast.

It will be noticed that the temperature averaged considerably higher this April than last; the barometer being considerably lower though the amount of rain was nearly the same. A. C.

WOMAN FARMING.

A statement in relation to a large amount of farm work performed by a family of girls in western New York, within a few years past, was not long since pretty generally copied by the agricultural press. An article written by a Mr. J. Talcott, disapproving of the course of these young ladies, has since been published in the *Rural New-Yorker*. In reply to the objections of this gentleman, one of these young ladies has written an article which fills about three columns of that paper. As a defence of "Woman's Right" to share with man the pleasure and profit of out-door labor, we have read this production with much interest; and we think our readers generally, whatever may be their opinion of woman farming, will enjoy the following extracts of an article written by a young lady who having literally put her hand to the plough, is still able to give her reasons for refusing to look back.

In the first place he [Mr. Talcott] says, that "continued out-door labor, for a woman or girl, tends to lower her position in social life, not only in the eyes of those who see it, but in those who perform." This I very strenuously deny, for I have abundant proof to the contrary. I commenced to work on the farm when seventeen years of age, and have followed it for three years, and probably shall some longer, and I have never known it to have the slightest effect upon the minds of any whose friendship was worth the having. He says that "it degenerates the mind, and deforms rather than strengthens the body." Women may grow deformed doing housework and taking care of children, and men while laboring in the counting-room, but there is less excuse for

it upon the farm than any other occupation in life.

The gentleman refers to barbarous nations where women work out doors, and thinks their condition far from enviable. I would like to inquire who would have her husband or son on the level with the males of those nations? If one comparison is applicable, so is the other.

Our friend thinks that "girls should be able to tend their flowers and gardens, ride horseback, harness and saddle a horse and turn him to pasture, but when this is done the idea of her taking her team and going into the field to plough for a livelihood is too much of a good thing." Sure enough, it *is shocking*, Mr. Talcott. It would do very well for her to take hold a little while, *just for fun*; but she must return to the house immediately, before any one happens to see her, and go to work at cats and dogs in worsted, or some Mrs. Grundy will raise a terrible hue and cry of "a woman out of her sphere," "trying to become a man," or something else equally ridiculous and nonsensical.

Throughout the whole of the article mentioned, the impression is carried that it is the *work* that degrades; but when it is sifted to its foundation we shall find, instead, that it is *ignorance*. Any one, whether male or female—whether his occupation is farming or anything else—will be coarse, unrefined, awkward and vulgar, in proportion to his lack of intelligence; and it is worse than folly in this age of the world to attribute it to anything else. A young lady once came some way to work for us. She had heard some one speak of the interest there was always to be found in all pertaining to an out-door life, and sighing for change sought it here; but she was not of a temperament to see God in flowers, and hear Him in the brooks; and so, very often that which would give us instruction and be of interest for days, would call forth the remark from her, "I can see nothing interesting in this;" so commonly did she use it, that it almost became a play-word with us. Nothing was of interest to her,—a strange plant, tree, or fossil—because she could see only with her temporal eyes. The past, present or future was nothing, even when it pertained to the beautiful unfolding of Nature's laws.

At last, Mr. Editor, we find that the grand finale of the eloquent epistle under consideration is simply this: Women may do anything they please in the world that *amounts to nothing*. She may make shirts at three cents apiece, take in washing, or do housework at fifty cents a week. Man has monopolized every honest employment and left her to cling helplessly to fathers and brothers for support, or waste her energies in striving to catch a husband to perform the office. Mr. Talcott says that it is an object worth striving for to correct such abuses. And that is our only object in pursuing the course that we do; and now that we have spread open the only door that is not pertinaciously closed, there is a terrible breeze created on the instant, and somebody has raised the frightful bear-in-the-corner of masculine women, vulgarity, ignorance, and all of the other bug-a-boos that are commonly used to frighten children, with the expectation that we will run like sheep before the butcher. But they have only succeeded in proving themselves mistaken. We have tried both sides of the question and are as competent to judge of its efficacy as those who stand in the corner and shout their surmises.

Mr. Talcott does not object so much to woman's doing anything she chooses, *provided that she turns it to no account*. He thinks there is no harm in her working on a farm if she does it for recreation and pleasure; but if she does it for a "means of gaining a livelihood," it is awful, shocking, outrageous, and not to be tolerated. Now, if it is right to do any such thing in "*fun*," *it is right to do it in earnest*, and for *pay*; and if it is right for man to work on a farm and draw rich inspiration from such heavenly beauties, it is just as right for woman, and if he can do it without growing base, so can she, and be just as lovable, just as good, and watchful, and kind; and as she grows stronger and more healthy, (as she cannot avoid doing,) she will be more patient and far more competent to fill the office of wife and mother with credit to herself, and bring honor to her husband and children. The reason that such labor has had so sad an effect upon women is because they are never satisfied to let well enough alone. If she is weaker than man, then she should work with more moderation; but no!—after a long day's work in the field she returns to the house, and while the men are enjoying a cosy chat, or reading, she is setting things "to rights" and preparing for the next day's work. Let Mr. Talcott go into the house, put on woman's rig and content himself within the limits that have been laid down for woman, and if he is possessed of an aspiring, ambitious mind, and he thinks the position desirable at the end of three years, then we may think his opinion entitled to more weight.

The story of our work is looked upon as remarkable almost beyond belief, when taken into consideration only our ages, and judge of common farming; but I assure you there is nothing strange or marvellous about it, after all. The soil of our farm is very light and easily tilled. Throughout the whole three hundred acres there is scarcely a stone, and all is smooth and level. The rest is not so easy to manage, but we do not have much trouble with it. We are none of us afraid of horses, and working around and with them is a pleasure. Machinery has very much facilitated farming of late—so we are able to do a great deal of work without injury to ourselves. We are none of us very sickly, and are improving in that respect all of the time. Neither are we deformed, but are growing to age cheerful, independent, trusting and happy. Our parents have not forced this life upon their children, either, as many have tried to prove, but were loth to have us enter it; yet, when they saw our determination, they yielded and lent us encouragement and assistance. Wishing that the lives of all other girls might be as far from trouble and care, and hoping that Mr. Talcott may soon gain a broader and more charitable view of nature and its effects, I will close.

DELLA A. ROBERTS.

Pekin, Niagara Co., N. Y.

A REMEDY FOR MELON BUGS.—A gentleman who has had much experience in raising melons, informs us that the best thing to keep bugs from the vines is,—

Sulphur, one table spoonful.
Yellow snuff, one table spoonful.
Cayenne pepper, one table spoonful.
Ground mustard, one table spoonful.

Mix the whole with half a pint of flour, and apply to the plants when they are moist.

EXTRACTS AND REPLIES.

HOW TO MAKE CORN BEER.

Will you or some of your subscribers inform me through your paper how to make corn beer? G.
East Hardwick, Vt., June, 1863.

REMARKS.—In reply to a similar inquiry, we published the following directions about three years ago:

To two gallons of water add one quart of dry corn, one pint of molasses, one tablespoonful of ginger. Let it stand in a cask or demijohn, and in one week it is fit for use. The same corn will answer for several brewings, but the cask should be scalded each time.
Roxbury, Vt., July, 1860. W. H. WALBRIDGE.

THE crop prospects in New York are encouraging. The weevil, which for several years back has been so destructive in the wheat-producing counties in Central and Western New York, has in a measure disappeared, and once more broad fields of wheat gladden the eye in those counties, and give promise of a fine yield. In the counties adapted more especially to grazing and dairy purposes many farmers are practicing the best means of enriching their pastures and meadows, improving their stock and adopting the most approved system of cheese and butter-making—so that, with a fair season, we may look for a large product in the State.

LADIES' DEPARTMENT.

THE BABY WALKS! THE BABY WALKS!

Joy fills the house; the baby stands
Alone upon her feet.
With quivering lip she lifts her little hands,
And wonderingly doth gaze into her mother's face;
Thus timidly she starts upon life's fitful race.

How many hopes, how many fears,
How many smiles, how many tears
Hang o'er her dangerous walk through coming years!
Almighty God! to Thee the child is given;
Guide home her weary steps at last to heaven.
Christian Inquirer.

DRESSING WITH TASTE.

It is strange that with all the time American women bestow upon dress, so few know how to prepare a simple toilet with taste. To be well-dressed, means, with most, to wear rich material, made up in gorgeous style, and with all the usual accessories of lace and jewelry, to add to the magnificence of the general effect. Never was a greater mistake. To be well-dressed is only to have attire suited to time, place, and circumstances, made in a becoming manner. This attire may be a shilling calico, or a rich silk, and yet in either, if it is adapted to the conditions we have mentioned, a woman may be said to be well-dressed. Where household duties have to be performed, and the care of children devolves partly upon the mistress of the house, a neat dress, fitted gracefully to the figure, is much better for morning wear, than the faded remains of more pretentious costume. Nothing looks more forlorn than to see a would-be lady performing household offices, of not the most refined character, in an old torn or dirty silk dress, or a soiled and draggled open wrapper. One of the secrets of dressing well, is to dress appropriately; another, to be careful of the details, the minutiæ of the toilet. Thorough personal cleanliness, glossy, well-brushed hair, neat shoes and stockings, are as essential to a good personal appearance as the material and fashion of the dress. Indeed, a lady who is particular in these minor matters can hardly ever be said to be ill-dressed, as this delicate refinement will not only excuse faults, but naturally show itself in the good taste which will guide her selection, no matter how small the cost may be. Some persons have an extreme horror of being "caught," as they call it, in a morning dress. Why they should be so sensitive on this point, it is difficult to say. If it is clean, and adapted to the work in which they are engaged, there is no shame in wearing it, and, above all, it ought to be remembered that no attire is good enough for the family which is not good enough for mere acquaintances who may chance to favor you with their society. It is much better to be caught in a plain morning dress, than to be caught very much over-dressed, as some unlucky individuals are, at a small party. In one case there is real cause for mortification, in the other there is none.

DOMESTIC RECEIPTS.

A DELICATE DESSERT. — Lay half-a-dozen crackers in a tureen, pour on enough boiling water to cover them. In a few minutes they will be swollen to three or four times their original size. Now grate loaf sugar and a little nutmeg over them, and dip on enough sweet cream to make a nice sauce, and you will have a simple and delicious dessert that will rest lightly on the stomach, and it is easily prepared. Leave out the cream, and it is a valuable recipe for "sick room cookery."

BOILING POTATOES.—This is a formula: Let each mess be of equal size. Let the water boil before putting the potatoes in. When done, pour off the water and scatter three or four tablespoonsful of salt, cover the pot with a coarse cloth, and return it to the fire for a short time. Watery potatoes are made mealy by this process. How simple is the process, yet how few understand it.

SYRUP FOR COOKING.—In making gingerbread with sorghum molasses, mix the soda with the molasses; then warm, stir till light, then mix with flour in the usual way, which will make light bread.

RASPBERRY VINEGAR.—Pour 1 quart vinegar on 1 quart fresh-picked raspberries; the next day strain it through a sieve on another quart of raspberries, and so on five or six days; then to every pint juice add 1 pound white sugar, set it in a jar, which must be placed in a pot of boiling water, until scalded through. Bottle.

GINGER BEER.—1 gallon cold water, 1 pound white sugar, ½ ounce race ginger, 1 sliced lemon, 1 teacup yeast. Let it stand all night to ferment; then pour it off without stirring, bottle it, and add 1 raisin to each bottle.

HOW TO HAVE GOOD LUCK IN SOAP MAKING.—Be sure your lye is strong enough to well bear up an egg. Put your grease, (about three gallons, to a twelve gallon kettle,) over the fire to melt. When it is thoroughly hot, begin stirring in your lye slowly, not more than a pint at once, being careful to keep your grease boiling all the time, and you will have no trouble making soap. It sometimes comes before the kettle is filled up with lye, and never takes more than a few hours' boiling.

SUBSTITUTE FOR CREAM.—If you have not cream for coffee, it is a very great improvement to boil your milk, and use it while hot.

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CATTLE MARKETS FOR JUNE.

The following is a summary of the reports for the four weeks ending June 18, 1863:

NUMBER AT MARKET.

	Cattle.	*Sheep.*	*Shotes.*	*Fat Hogs.*	*Veals.*
May 28.....	1544	2571	500	—	1000
June 4.....	730	2315	1500	1600	1050
" 11.....	1165	1556	1600	1200	900
" 18.....	1053	4042	1200	900	1000
Total.....	4494	10,484	4800	3700	3950

The following table exhibits the number of cattle and sheep from each State for the last four weeks, and for the corresponding four weeks last year; also the total number for the first twenty-five weeks of each year:

	THIS YEAR.		LAST YEAR.	
	Cattle.	*Sheep.*	*Cattle.*	*Sheep.*
Maine	202	64	20	225
New Hampshire	656	1892	365	1573
Vermont	836	4538	863	6065
Massachusetts	391	1183	213	1220
Northern New York	18	666	100	547
Canada	—	—	19	—
Western States	2391	2141	3212	1766
Total, last four weeks	4,494	10,484	4,792	11,396
Total, since Jan. 1, (25 w'ks,)	33,517	66,419	32,195	66,833

PRICES.

	May 28.	*June* 4.	*June* 11.	*June* 18.
Beef, 1st, 2d, 3d qual.	7½@9	7½@9	7½@9	7½@9
" a few extra	9½@9½	9½@9½	9½@9½	9½@9½
Sheep, ℔ lb, sheared	4 @6½	4 @6½	4 @7	4½@7
Swine, stores, w'sale	5 @7	5 @7	5 @7	5 @6
" " retail	7 @9	6 @8	6 @8	5 @7½
Hides, ℔ lb	7½@8½	7½@8½	7½@8½	7½@8½
Pelts, sheared	25@35	25@35	25@35	35@40
Tallow, ℔ lb	8 @8½	8 @8½	8 @8½	8 @8½

REMARKS.—The market for beef cattle has been quiet and steady during these four weeks. Good Northern oxen have mostly been sold at $8 to $9 ℔ 100 lbs. and the Western steers at from $8 to $9,50. At the last market, although the quality of the cattle was inferior to that of the previous weeks, prices were pretty well sustained.

The supply of good sheep was short of the demand, until the last market, when there were large numbers both from the North and from the West. This seemed to change the current of prices from an upward to a downward tendency, and drovers complained of a reduction of ½c ℔ lb.

There has been but little call for working oxen, and the sale of milch cows has not been as good as it was last month.

Sales of Cattle and Sheep.

The following is from our report of sales, June 18:

A. N. Monroe sold 182 of his Albany cattle as follows:—one extra pair of oxen weighing at Brighton 3915 lbs., at 9¾c, dressed; 14 averaging 1540 lbs., at 9c, dressed; 18 averaging 1350 lbs., at 8c, 34 sk.; 19 weighing 1530 lbs. each, at 8½c, 30 sk.; 10 others, 1500 lbs., at 8½c, 30 sk.; 8 others, 1500 lbs., 9c, 31 sk.; 32, gross live weight 26,625 lbs., at 8¼c, 34 sk.; 15 others, 1450 lbs. each, 9c, ½ sk.; 14 others 1275 lbs. each, at 9¼c, 30 sk.; 6 averaging 1200 lbs., 9c, 30 sk.; 4 weighing 4315 lbs., at 9¼c, 30 sk.; one pair oxen, 3110 lbs., at 8¾c, ½ sk.; 9 steers, 1075 lbs. each, 9c, 30 sk.; and 30 of an average live weight, of 1100 lbs., 8¼c, 32 sk. By a rough calculation we estimate that the sales reported in this short paragraph amount to about $16,000, (fifteen thousand dollars.)

Wm. Scollans sold 85 good Illinois oxen and steers as follows: 14 to J. F. Taylor, live weight 1500 lbs. each, at 9½c, 28 sk.; 27 others, same weight, to N. & S. Jackson, at 9½c, 30 sk.; 15 averaging 1300 lbs., at 9½c, 30 sk.; 13 weighing 1550 lbs. each, at 9½c, 31 sk.; and 16, average live weight 1300 lbs., at 9½c, 30 sk.

D. A. Philbrick sold to E. Porter one pair of five-year-old oxen, estimated to dress 2600 lbs., and very handsome, thrifty looking steers they were, fed by J. Roby, of Northampton, N. H. Also, another pair, six years old, fed in the same town, by E. Berry, and possiby by way of a little friendly competition with his neighbor, and laid by good judges at 2800 lbs. Mr. Philbrick hoped to get 10c ℔ lb. for these extra oxen, but 9½c was the highest bid, up to last evening. He also sold one pair to Mr. Holden, laid at 2000 lbs., for $185, another pair, 2100 lbs., for $190, and a pair of 7 ft. oxen for $130.

Dudley & French sold 138 sheep at 5½c ℔ lb. Perry Long sold Giles and Farrington 191 New York sheep for 6c ℔ lb., for which he expected 6¼c, and we understood that the other lot of New York sheep were sold at 6c. M. T. Shackett sold to Hollis & Pratt a drove of 100 merino sheep fed by Oliver Eldridge, of Addison, Vt., averaging at Cambridge 103½ lbs., which although sheared, had flesh enough to make them look comfortable after their jackets were off. They were an extra lot. We heard one of the buyers say to a customer at the market, this morning,—"You havn't seen *such* mutton in my cart this year." They were bargained for two weeks ago, at 7c, which is probably higher than they would have sold this week. Mr. Shackett sold 25 other fine sheep to J. Pratt, at 6½c ℔ lb., weighing 92 lbs. each. Bailey & Ainsworth had 179 sheep for which they refused 5¾c ℔ lb., on their way to market, asking 6c. At the close of business at Cambridge on Tuesday they had sold 50 selected ones for 6c, and for the 129 then remaining, 4½c ℔ lb., had been offered, and 5c asked. E. Flint sold 37 sheep to H. Goodnough, 75 lbs. each, for 5¼c ℔ lb., and at the same price C. W. Baily sold a small drove. B. B. Chase sold 7 extra cossets at 7c.